Systematic list, with special reference to "target species", their identification and habitats

(Note, that not every observation of common observed birds are mentioned - that the "running order" follows Mullarney et al. (1999) - the most frequently used field guide to the area, and the names even given in Danish)

1. **Black-throated Diver** *Gavia arctica* **Sortstrubet Lom**
2005: 17.5 1 adult in summer plumage migrating W Derepazari, Black Sea.
Winters scarcely in Black Sea region.

2. **Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus* **Toppet Lappedykker**
2005: 13.5 1 Akgöl, Göksu Delta - 17.5 5 Cildir Gölü.
2006: 14.5 15 Akgöl, Göksu Delta – 22.5 8 Bendimahi Marshes, Van Gölü – 23.5 3 South Van Marshes.
2007: 14.5 5 Akgöl, Göksu Delta – 17.5 10 Tödürge Gölü – 17.5 3 Sivas-Kizilham Gecedi – 21.5 5 Bendimahi – 21.5 10 Aydinlar.

3. **Red-necked Grebe** *Podiceps grisegena* **Gråstrubet Lappedykker**
2005: 17.5 2 ad. waterhole near Ardahan.
2006: 21.5 1 Ardahan (same as 2005).
2007: 20.5 1 Ardahan (same as 2005 and 2006)
Scarce and local breeder, in Eastern Turkey confined to shallow small lakes in flat country.

4. **Black-necked Grebe** *Podiceps nigricollis* **Sorthalset Lappedykker**
2005: 18.5 9 at waterhole near Kars was the largest number. Scattered observations Lake Van, and 2 Akgöl, Göksu Delta on 13.5.
2006: 21.5 1 Ardahan – 21.5 45 Kars (same waterhole as in 2005) – 22.5 1 Bendimahi Marshes-Van – 23.5 4 South Van Marshes, Van.
2007: 20.5 100 Kars – 21.5 30 Aydinlar.
A leucistic bird observed Aydinlar 21.5 2007. It showed pale greyish-brown overall plumage, but traces of normal summer head.

5. **Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis* **Lille Lappedykker**
Scattered observations in most suitable habitats such as small lakes and ponds.
2005: Most 17-18.5 10 water ponds near Ardahan and Kars.
2006: Most 21.5 25 Ardahan – 21.5 5 Kars.
2007: 17.5 1 Sivas – 20.5 3 Ardahan – 21.5 1 Aydinlar – 25.5 4 River Euphrates S of Birezik

6. **Cory´s Shearwater** *Calonectris diomedea* **Kuhls Skråpe**
2007: 14.5 4 Paradeniz Point, Göksu Delta.
Regularly observed from the Mediterranean Coastline, especially from Karatas south of Adana (e.g. 7 seen here on an afternoon late May 2007 (Olof Jönsson per sms).

7. **Dalmatian Pelican** *Pelecanus crispus* **Krøltoppet Pelikan**

2005: 17.5 1 Aktas Gölü, with White Pelicans.
Decreasing breeding population in Turkey is 100-150 pairs, mainly in the west (most Manyas and Bafa Gölü´s, Büyük Menderes, Kizilmak Delta); a small isolated breeding population is found at Aktas and Cirdir Gölü´s near the border to Georgia (Tucker & Heath 1994). Frequently observed Nigde, Central Anatolia.
Hundreds winters in W Turkey, most (max. 400) Bafa Gölü and Büyük Menderes (Green & Moorhouse 1995).

8. **White Pelican** *Pelecanus onocrotatus* **Almindelig Pelikan**
2005: 17.5 10 Aktas Gölü.
2006: 19.5 1 imm. migrating Kalkandere.
250-400 pairs breed in Turkey (Tucker & Heath 1994), mainly in Central parts, with several colonies in Central Anatolia (e.g. 100 pairs Seyfe Gölü). Sometimes observed Sultan Marshes (where possible still breeding), Akkaya Barasi SW of Nigde, Göksu and Tarsus Deltas, and on migration at Erzek Gölü and Bendimahi Marshes, Van Gölü.

9. **Great Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis* **Skarv (Mellemskarv)**
2005: 7.5 10 Black Sea costline between Derebapazi and Rize.
2006: 13.5 40 Istanbul – 20.5 35 Debarapazi-Hoba.
2007: 19.5 3 Rize-Hopa. Away from the area: 27.10 30 Istanbul.

10. **Shag** *Phalacrororax aristotelis desmerestii* **Topskarv**
2005: 17.5 1 small harbour between Rize and Arhavi, Black Sea Coast.
A small population exists along the NE Black Sea Coast of Turkey, but the species is more frequently observed by visiting birders in the Mediterranean area, where it breeds along Sw shoreline. Turkish breeding population is a few hundreds pairs.
The ssp. *desmerestii* breeds in Turkey. Young birds are paler than the north European ssp. *aristotelis*, with pale underparts and often much paler brown upperparts. This is especially true in worn spring 2. cal. years.

11. **Pygmy Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax pygmeus* **Dværgskarv**
2005: 21.5 >80 Birezik, mainly along River Euphrates 2-3 km. south of the town, resting in reed beeds.
2006: 24.5 20 Birezik – 25.5 15 Birezik.
2007: 24.5 40 Birezik – 25.5 2 plantations, Birezik – 25.5 110 River Euphrates S of Birezik – 26.5 10 Gravel pits, Birezik.
Approximately 1500 pairs breeds Turkey mid 1990, but probably increasing and expanding its range, e.g. to River Euphrates, Birezik , where the species now is common.
The Western Anatolian lakes, Sultan Marshes (200 pairs), Göksu Delta and the Van region are other areas for the species. Has probably disappeared from Eregli Marshes, where formerly bred.

12. **Little Bittern** *Ixobrychus minumus* **Dværghejre**
2005: 21.5 2 reed beeds 2-3 km. south of Birezik, at River Euphrates – 21.5 1 Birezik, at western bank of River Euphrates - 24.5 3 ad. Tuzla Creek.
2006: 10 Akgöl, Göksu Delta - 25.5 3 Birezik (2-3 km. south of the bridge, at eastern shore of river Euphrates) – 25.5 2 Birezik (gravel pits 3 km. north of the bridge, along western shore of River Euphrates).

2007: 3 males Akgöl, Göksu Delta – 15.5 1 Göksu Delta – 16.5 1 ad. Sultan Sazligi – 21.5 1 ad. Bendimahi – 24.5 2 Gravel Pits, Birezik – 25.5 1 ad. River Euphrates S of Birezik.
Breeds in lowland freshwater areas and along rivers with extensive reed beeds. Turkish breeding opulation 1000-10.000 pairs (Tucker & Heath 1994).
As usual, this little skulker creates rather hard work - but the sign of a slowly flying Coot with large pale patches "like izing on mazarina cakes!" should reveal the ID!

13. **Black-crowned Night Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax* **Nathejre**
2005: 15.5 1 2 cal. year bird Sultan Marshes.
2006: 25.5 10 (1 ad. + 9 2nd cal. Year) Birezik.
2007: 14.5 3 juveniles Akgöl, Göksu Delta – 16.5 2 Sultan Sazligi – 24.5 6 Birezik.
Breeding population 1000-3000 pairs, probably more common in W Turkish wetlands.

14. **Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis ibis* **Kohejre**
2005: 21.5 2 adult in breeding plumage gravel pits north of Birezik, along River Euphrates.
2006: 18.5 3 Altunkent between Erzincan and Mercan – 22.5 3 South Van Marshes, Van – 25.5 2 Birezik.
2007: 20.5 6 Saz Gölü – 21.5 1 Sogoksu – 25.5 20 River Euphrates S of Birezik.
Formerly rather local in Turkey, with small populations in Sultan Saglizi, along River Euphrates and in river deltas of the SE Mediterranean. 2006-2007 observations indicates a recent spread, and nowadays noted in small numbers throughout, most 20 birds Bendimahi Marshes, Van Gölü, 20 May 2007 (Christian Leth pers. comm.)

15. **Squacco Heron** *Ardeola ralloides* **Tophejre**
Probably the most widespread of the white herons in Central Turkey, but never numerous.
2005: Small gatherings Akgöl, Birezik and Tuzla Creek, never exceeding 5-6 apart from 10 Sultan Sazligi 15.5.
2006: Most 17.5 25 Sultan Sazligi – 18.5 4 Erzinzan-Mercan – 22.5 10 Dogubayazit – 25.5 5 Birezik.
2007: Most 14.5 60 Akgöl, Göksu Delta – 20.5 12 Saz Gölü – 22.5 2 Idil – 24-26.5 daily max. 4 Gravel Pits, Birezik
3000-10.000 pairs breeds Turkey (Tucker & Heath 1994). Prefers permanent freshwater lakes, surrounded by reed beeds, with scattered stands of trees and bushes. Settlet birds are pale brown, but in flight, the bird transforms into a white bird (as wings and tail are white).

16. **Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta* **Silkehejre**
Rather common in wetlands, especially southern Turkey.
2005: Most 20 Akgöl, Göksu Delta, 10 Sultan Saglizi 15.5. 15 24.5 Göksu Delta - 24.5 7 Tuzla/Tuzla Creek.
2006: Most 14.5 15 Göksu Delta - 17.5 20 Sultan Sazligi. Other observations 19.5 2 Deberapazi – 20.5 1 Izikdere-Deherapazi – 25.5 5 Birezik.
2007: Most 14.5 55 Akgöl, Göksu Delta – 16.5 25 Sultan Sazligi – 17.5 2 Erzinzan-Altunkent – 19.5 4 Ardahan – 20.5 4 Saz Gölü – 21.5 2 Bulanik – 22.5 4 Idil – 25.5 3 river euphrates S of Birezik – 26.5 4 Tuzla Gölü S of Adana.

17. **Great White Egret** *Egretta alba* **Sølvhejre**
2005: 14.5 4 Akgöl, Göksu Delta - 15.5 4 Sultan Marshes.

2006: 14.5 7 Göksu Delta – 17.5 4 Sultan Sazligi – 17.5 1 Sivas – 17.5 1 Sivas-Kizildag Gecedi – 18.5 1 Erzinzan-Mercan.
2007: 14.5 4 Akgöl, Göksu Delta – 18.5 1 Erzinzan-Altunkent.

18. **Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea* **Fiskehejre**
2005, 2006, 2007: Scattered observations in suitable habitats. Off the records were 13.5 2006 2 Istanbul.
2007: Most 14.5 6 Akgöl, Göksu Delta – 16.5 17 Sultan Sazligi – 18.5 12 Erzinzan-Altunkent – 19.5 8 Ardahan -20.5 6 Saz Gölü – 21.5 6 Bulanik – 22.5 4 Idil.

19. **Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea* **Purpurhejre**
More common than Grey Heron, with frequent observations in extensive wetlands, especially with large reed beds.
2005: Most 14.5 10 Akgöl, Göksu Delta.
2006: Most 14.5 11 Akgöl, Göksu Delta – 17.5 10 Sultan Sazligi. Only singletons in the east, apart from 22-23.5 daily max. 3 South Van Marshes, Van.
2007: Most 14.5 45 Akgöl, Göksu Delta – 16.5 11 Sultan Sazligi – 16.5 8 Ovaciftlik – 20.5 4 Saz Gölü – 21.5 4 Caldiran Marshes.
2-5000 pairs breeds in Turkey. Breeds in freshwater lakes with extensive reed beeds.
The general "anorectic" shape of the species and the general darkness was most striking at distance - especially the spike-like bill, the extremely slender body and deep "throat patch", which somewhat reminded us of the gular parts of Marabou Stork in flight were eye catching. The spread toes, often cited as a good character, were observed on a couple of occasions (but usually after the legs have proven to be yellow) - it was however rarely a main suspicion character.

20. **White Stork** *Ciconia ciconia* **Hvid Stork**
Rather common in agricultural landscape, with nests noted locally in small colonies.
2005: Most at Göksu Delta: 15 on 15.5 and 20 on 24.5, on pylons between Nigde and Sultan Marshes, and on almost any pylon between Batman and Diyarbakir 21.5. 22.5 a flock of 32 migrating north Birezik.
2006: Widespread, but rather local. Most 15.5 20 Karaman-Eregli.
2007: Widespread, most 14.5 16 Akgöl, Göksu Delta – 15.5 26 Göksu Delta (incl. several nesting) – 20.5 6 Saz Gölü – 21.5 10 Bulanik – 22.5 40 Baykan-Batman.
Breeds scattered throughout the country and seen with nests several sites, often in loose colonies. Total Turkish breeding population 15.000-35.000 pairs (Tucker & Heath 1994).
Massive migration pass Turkey spring and autumn. In autumn 1972, 339.000 counted Bosphorus (Cramp & Simmons 1977)), heading for the Levant via south Mediterranean coast, with massive migration around Adana (Toprakalle, Belen pass) - the same route used by raptors. Further to the south, max. 300.000 (maybe up to 500.000) may pass per autumn at Israeli count sites, peaking late Aug-early Sept. with day count up to 70.000. Spring counts much the same, with peak late March. It should be possible to observe this massive migration in the Adana area.

21. **Black Stork** *Ciconia nigra* **Sort Stork**
2005: 17.5 1 2 cal year migrating Hopa.
2006: 17.5 8 Sultan Sazligi - 19.5 1 2nd cal. year migrating Kalkandere.
2007: 16.5 6 (of which 3 2nd cal. year) Sultan Sazligi – 17.5 4 Cöl Cölu – 19.5 1 migrating Hopa.
Turkey forms the southwesternmost breeding range.500-2000 pairs breeds in Turkey, especially in C and N parts. Prefers large moist, mixed forest near water, such as rivers and streams <1700

meters (Tucker & Heath 1994). Within the treated area, most often observed in Central Anatolia, e.g. at Sultan Marshes; otherwise, the well forested hills between Ankara and Gerede (especially near Kizilcahamam and Soguksu Milli Park) have a good breeding population.
Large autumn migration passes Bosphorus, with day counts have exceeded 5.000. Migration later than in White Stork, peaking late Sept. Numbers passing Israel each season estimated to 15-20.000, generally highest in spring with a peak mid March-early April (Shirihai 1996). As in White Stork, it should be possible to study this massive migration in the Adana area.

22. **Bald Ibis** *Geronicus eremita* **Eremitibis**
2005: 21.5 51+ Birezik.
2006: At Birezik: 24.5 3 Birezik – 25-26.5 1 with nest 1.5 km. north of the bridge - 25-26.5 8 "Ibis Wadi" (of which 3 pairs with youngs) – 31 in flock afternoon north of the bridge.
2007: At Birezik 24.5 1 Gravel Pits – 25.5 6 cliffs N of the bridge – 25.5 13 Ibis Wadi, Birezik (at least 2 pairs with pulli) – 25.5 51 Birezik (feeding on fields in the southern edge of the town) – 26.5 3 Gravel pits, Birezik
The original wild population became extinct by 1989. Decrease was caused by construction of the bridge crossing River Euphrates in the 1950ies, which lead to town enlargement, but also heavy use of pesticids. Formerly celebrated by local ferrymen (but not after bridge construction), and still a hallmark of the town of Birezik.
The population, kept in half-captivity in Birezik is easily observed. 70-80 birds exist. In 2005 we saw 18 on the cliffs 1 km. north of Birezik bridge on the east side of River Euphrates, 17 (including nest with young) in the "Ibis Wadi" and 33 feeding in a plantation some km south of Birezik. In 2006 3 breeding pairs in the Ibis Wadi. A unique experience with an enigmatic, prehistorical beast!
A small breeding population have recently been found at Palmyra in Northern Syria. The only other breeding areas are Morocco, with a recent spread into Southwestern Andalusia in Spain.

23. **Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus* **Sort Ibis**
2005: 13.5 12 Akgöl, Göksu Delta - 15.5 8 Sultan Saglizi - 19.5 1 Erzek Gölu.
2006: 17.5 2 Sivas – 17.5 1 Sivas-Kizildag Gecedi – 19.5 22 migrating S, eventually N Kalkandere.
2007: 14.5 23 Akgöl, Göksu Delta – 17.5 2 Sivas – 20.5 1 Saz Gölü.

24. **Eurasian Spoonbill** *Platalea leucorodia* **Skestork**
2005: 13.5 8 Akgöl, Göksu Delta.
2006: 17.5 1 Sultan Sazligi.
2007: 14.5 5 Akgöl, Göksu Delta.

25. **Great Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus ruber* **Flamingo**
2005: 24.5 78 Tuzla Gölü, mainly immatures.
2006: 14.5 26 Göksu Delta – 17.5 13 Sultan Sazligi.
2007: 17.5 20 Cöl Gölü – 17.5 8 Tuzla Gölu – 26.5 425 Tuzla Gölü S of Adana.
12-18.000 pairs breeds in Turkey, which holds 6 of 10 of the most important WP European breeding areas for the species, most at Tuz Gölü (14.000 pairs), Seife Gölü (2000 pairs; max. 30.000 observed) and Kulu Gölü (max. 3000 in summer) (Tucker & Heath 1994, Green & Moorhouse 1995). In autumn, max. 59.150 have been observed at Sultan Sazligi (Magnin & Yarar 1997). Groups of several hundreds frequently observed in Van Area and Erzek Gölü probably comes from Iran. Breeds in locally very dense colonies in saline habitats.

26. **Whooper Swan** *Cygnus cygnus* **Sangsvane**

2007: 14.5 1 ad. Akgöl, Göksu Delta.
Rare winter visitor, mainly to western part of Turkey.

27. **Greylag Goose** *Anser anser* **Grågås**
2006: 21.5 2 Ardahan.
Only known to breeds in E and C Turkey.

28. **Common Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna* **Gravand**
2005: 19.6 6 South Van Marshes (site 1 in Gosney 1993).

29. **Ruddy Shelduck** *Tadorna ferriginea* **Rustand**
Widespread, with scattered observations of small groups in suitable habits: lakes and river edges, often in mountain areas.
2005: No count exceeds 10, but present in most wetlands; 19.5 a pair with 5 pulli South Van Gölü.
2006: Most 14.5 1 pair with 2 pulli + 6 adult Akgöl, Göksu Delta - 17.5 20 Sivas – 18.5 9 Erzinzan-Mercan - 21.5 12 Kars- 22.5 8 Bendimahi Marshes, Van Gölü.
2007: Most 14.5 4 Akgöl, Göksu Delta – 17.5 7 Sivas (incl. pair with 3 pulli) – 17.5 4 Silas-Kizilham Gecedi – 18.5 20 Erzinzan-Altunkent- 19.5 6 Ardahan – 20.5 31 Saz Gölü
4.000-8.000 pairs bred Turkey (Tucker & Heath 1994), making the country by far the most important breeding site in the region. However, a strong decrease have takes place in especially Central Anatolia caused by habitat destruction such as overgrazing, increasing salt extraction and upstream irrigation systems (probably the most important factor). The species seems freely hunted.
Following breeding season (late June), up to 4000+ gathers Ercez Gölü (Grunwell 2005).

30. **Mallard** *Anas plathyrhynchos* **Gråand**
Observed in small numbers.
2005: Most 18.5 10 Kars.
2006: Most 14.5 30 Göksu Delta - 21.5 10 Ardahan – 21.5 35 Kars.
2007: Most 14.5 8 males Akgöl, Göksu Delta – 17.5 4 Sivas-Kizilham Gecedi- 20.5 25 Ardahan – 20.5 30 Kars – 20.5 20 Saz Gölü – 25.5 5 River Euphrates S of Birezik.

31. **Gadwall** *Anas strepera* **Knarand**
2005: 18.5 4 males and 4 females waterhole near Kars. - 19.5 3 Erzek Gölü.
2006: 21.5 4 males + 4 females Kars (same waterhole as in 2005).
2007: 14.5 1 female with 4 pulli Akgöl, Göksu Delta – 20.5 1 male Ardahan – 20.5 10 Kars – 21.5 2 Aydinlar.

32. **Common Pintail** *Anas acuta* **Spidsand**
2006: 17.5 1 female Sivas.
2007: 14.5 2 males + 2 females Akgöl, Göksu Delta.

33. **Common Teal** *Anas crecca* **Krikand**
2005: 17.5 2 (pair) Ardahan.
2006: 17.5 4 males + 3 females Sivas – 21.5 1 male + 1 female Ardahan – 23.5 2 (pair) South Van Marshes.
2007: 14.5 4 Akgöl, Göksu Delta – 17.5 1 male Sivas – 20.5 2 Ardahan.

34. **Garganey** *Anas querquedula* **Atlingand**

2005: 17.5 4 (2 pairs) Ardahan - 18.5 2 (pair) waterhole at Kars. - 21.5 2 males + 1 female Birezik at Euphratest.
2006: 14.5 6 Göksu Delta – 17.5 10 Sivas – 21.5 2 males + 1 female Ardahan – 22.5 8 Bendimahi Marshes, Van Gölü – 23.5 7 South Van Marshes.
2007: 14.5 3 males + 1 female Akgöl, Göksu Delta – 17.5 4 males Sivas – 20.5 2 males Ardahan.

35. **Northern Shoveler** *Anas clypeata* **Skeand**
2006: 21.5 6 Ardahan – 21.5 2 males + 2 females Kars – 22.5 2 Dogubayazit.
2007: 14.5 8 males + 3 females Akgöl, Göksu Delta – 19.5 1 male Ardahan – 20.5 2 males+1 female Ardahan.

36. **Eurasian Wigeon** *Anas penelope* **Pibeand**
2007: 19.5 2 males Ardahan.

37. **Marbled Teal** *Marmoretta angosturensis* **Marmorand**
2005: 13.5 6 Akgöl Gölu, Göksu Delta - 23.5 2 Göksu Delta.
2006: 14.5 7 Akgöl, Göksu Delta.
2007: 14.5 3 Akgöl, Göksu Delta.
150-250 pairs breeds in Turkey, with 50 pairs in Göksu Delta as the highest population. The species is most frequent at Göksu Delta, but also Eregli, Sultan Sazligi, Ceyhan Delta and Van Gölu (Green 1993, Tucker & Heath 1994, Green & Moorhouse 1995, Magnin & Yarar 1997).

38. **Red-crested Pochard** *Netta rufina* **Rødhovedet And**
2005: 16.5 4 males and 4 females Sultan Saglizi.
2006: 14.5 38 Akgöl, Göksu Delta – 17.5 2 Sultan Sazligi – 17.5 12 Sivas (6 pairs) – 17.5 30 Sivas-Kizildag Gecedi.
2007: 16 males + 13 females Akgöl, Göksu Delta – 17.5 22 males+6 females Tödürge Gölü – 25.5 2 males+1 female River Euphrates S of Birezik.
1000-5000 pairs breeds in Turkey, confined to Central Anatolia and the far East.

39. **Common Pochard** *Aythya ferina* **Taffeland**
2005: Regular in wetlands, most 17.5 9 Ardahan - 19.5 30 Erzek Gölü- 19.5 25 South Van Marshes.
2006: 21.5 10 Ardahan – 21.5 30 Kars – 22.5 1 Gulicar-Caldiran – 22.5 4 males Bendimahi Marshes, Van Gölü.
2007: 3 males +1 female Akgöl, Göksu Delta – 20.5 5 males+3 females Ardahan – 20.5 30 Kars – 20.5 6 Saz Gölü – 21.5 9 Aydinlar.

40. **Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula* **Troldand**
2005: Scattered observations, most 18.5 10 Kars.
2006: 21.5 16 Ardahan – 21.5 1 male+ 1 female Kars.
2007: 20.5 2 males+1 female Ardahan – 20.5 4 Kars.
Not mentioned to breed, but probably does.

41. **Ferruginous Duck** *Aythya ferruginea* **Hvidøjet And**
2005: 21.5 3 males + 1 female 2-3 km. south of Birezik, at River Euphrates - 23.5 2 males and 2 females Göksu Delta.
2006: 25.5 4 males + 1 female Birezik (2-3km.south of the bridge, at eastern side of River Euphrates).

2007: 14.5 1 Akgöl, Göksu Delta – 18.5 12 swamp 13 km. E of Erzinzan – 20.5 1 male Kars – 21.5 1 male Aydinlar – 25.5 2 males River Euphrates S of Birezik.
As usual, the wing-bars are broad enough to create impression of almost white wings in flight - an impression strangely shared with Red-crested Pochard.
1000-3000 pairs breeds in Turkey (Tucker & Heath 1994).

42. **White-headed Duck** *Oxyuca leucocephala* **Hvidhovedet And**
2005: 19.5 4 males + 1 female South Van Marshes (Gem site 1) - 20.5 1 male South Van Marshes (Gem site 2).
2006: 21.5 3 males+3 females Kars.
2007: 20.5 3 (1 male+2 females) Kars – 21.5 4 (2 males+2 females) Aydinlar.
150-250 pairs breeds Turkey in small, brackish wetlands with extensive reed beds (Tucker & Heath 1994). Several wetlands around Ardahan looked promising for the species.
The Kars site is situated along D070 13 km. from Kars in the direction towards Tuzluza/Igdir. It lies immediately at the road-side. A hill with a large mast is found in the background. The site is even noted by Hendriks 2004, who "placed it" 35 km. from Kars, which is not true.
Other hot spots are the shores of Erzek Gölü and Bendimahi Marshes at Van Gölü, less frequently observed Eregli, Nigde and Sultan Marshes (at latter site, 20 pairs breeds). In 2007, we observed 4 in a small lake 3 km. E of Aydinlar, opposite Van Gölü (Green & Moorhouse 1995, Magnin & Yarar 1997, Lindbladh et al. 2002, own obs.). Could occur in any suitable wetland in East Turkey.
Turkey holds 90% of the World winter population of the species, with max. being 11.000 at Burdur Gölü. In late summer gathers in flocks at Kulu and Arin Gölü (Anstey 1989).

43. **Velvet Scoter** *Melanitta fusca fusca* **Fløjlsand**
2005: 17.5 1 Aksas Gölu – 17.5 3 Cildir Gölü.
A small, isolated population is found in remote lakes in eastern Turkey (and at Nevrud Dagi near Tatvan, Van Gölü). We were curious in observing possible plumage differences between these isolated population and West European birds, as both the Siberian form *stejnegeri* and the Nearctic form *deglandtii* at least regarding males differs clearly from each other (see e.g. Garner 1999, Garner et al. 2004) and even at distance would be separable. In moderate distance these Turkish delights showed head-shape identical to *fusca*.

44. **Lammergeier** *Gypaetus barbatus* **Lammegrib**
2005: 14.5 1 adult Kalki Dag, Aladag Mountains - 18.5 1 adult Ishik Pasa.
2006: 18.5 1 ad. Gölgurt north of Gelinkaya – 18.5 1 ad. Maden Köprubasi – 22.5 1 ad. Ishak Pasa.
2007: 18.5 2 ad. Ovitdagi Gecedi -19.5 1 ad. Savsat.
Lammergeier has a stable population on 100-500 (800) pairs in Turkey, where found in high mountain areas throughout the country, above the tree line and normally > 1000 m. of altitude (seen most frequent at 1500-3000 m.) (Gensbøl 1994, Forsman 1997). Often found Aladag (around Demirkazik, Kalki Dag, Pozanti), Artvin and Sivri Kaya area, especially at Ovitdagi Gecedi (superb views 2007!) and the valleys further south towards Ispir.

45. **Griffon Vulture** *Gyps fulvus* **Gåsegrib**
2005: 17.5 10 near carcass Ardahan.
2006: 16.5 1 Kalki Dag – 21.5 1 Ishak Pasa.
2007: 14.5 1 imm. Mersin – 15.5 2 Imamli – 22.5 1 Sucete, Raman Dagi – 23.5 4 Bucak.
100-1000 pairs breeds Turkey, which is one of the countries with a decrease of the population. A

former reliable site is the gorge 6 km. E of Ispir (also for Cinereous Vulture and Imperial Eagle), as described by Schwalbe 2001, but none there in 2006.
Scarce on migration, with autumn counts of 30 NE Pontics and 125 Belen Pass (Shirihai et al. 2000).

46. **Cinereous Vulture** *Aegypius monachus* **Munkegrib**
2006: 18.5 3 ad. Gödker near Mercan.
2007: 18.5 1 Gödker near Mercan.
Some hundreds pairs breeds in Turkey. "Gödker" is a pass 16 km. W of Askale in the direction towards Altunkent. Scan the mountain ridge, which are rather rich of raptors. Otherwise, the species is most frequently observed at Kizilzaham near Ankara; also frequentl S of Sivri Kaya.

47. **Egyptian Vulture** *Neophron percnopterus* **Ådselgrib**
2005: 13.5 1 3rd cal. year Göksu Delta. - 16.5 1 imm. Ardahan - 18.5 1 ad. Igdir - 23.5 1 ad. Demircili.
2006: 15.5 3 ad. + 1 imm. Mut-Karaman – 15.5 1 imm. Karaman-Eregli – 17.5 3 ad. Sivas – 18.5 1 ad. + 1 imm. Gödker – 18.5 1 ad. Ispir – 21.5 1 ad. Ardahan – 21.5 2 ad. Kars-Halikisla – 21.5 1 ad. Halikisla – 21.5 1 ad. Igdir-Dogubayazit – 21.5 1 ad. Ishak Pasa – 22.5 1 ad. Gulicar – 24.5 1 Kahta-Adiyaman.
2007: 19.5 2 ad. Savsat – 19.5 2 ad. Cam Gecedi – 20.5 1 ad. Tendürek Gecedi.
In Turkey a widespread breeder with 1000-5000 pairs, probably more common in the western part of the country. On migration, 874 were counted Belen Pass in 1976 (Shirihai et al. 2000).

48. **Golden Eagle** *Aquila chrysaetos* **Kongeørn**
2005: 14.5 1 imm. Demirkazik. - 14.5 1 ad. Kalki Dag. - 16.5 1 imm. Baskarschmag. - 16.5 1 2 cal. Year near Gelinkaya. - 17.5 1 ad. Ishak Pasa - 17.5 2 ad. + 1 imm. near Tendürek Gecedi - 18.5 1 imm. Serpmetas - 19.5 1 ad. Ishak Pasa.
2006: 15.5 2 Adabag-Pozanti – 16.5 4 (of which 1 ad. + 1 2nd cal year) Kalki Dag – 17.5 1 Karhan – 18.5 1 imm. Ovitdagi Gecedi – 20.5 1 Cam Gecedi – 21.5 1 Ishak Pasa.
2007: 15.5 1 ad. Demirkazik – 15.5 1 ad. Pinarbasi – 16.5 1 Cimbar Bogazi, Demirkazik – 16.5 2 imm. Cucurbak-Elmali – 18.5 1 ad.+1 subad. Gödker – 18.5 1 Maden Köprubasi-Ovitdagi Gecedi – 18.5 1 ad. Sivri Kaya – 20.5 1 ad. Ishak Pasa.
Widespread in mountain. Gensbøl (1994) gives a breeding population of 500-1500 pairs in Turkey.

49. **Imperial Eagle** *Aquila heliaca* **Kejserørn**
2005: 17.5 1 imm. near Ardahan. Two distant, displaying eagles could have been this species.
2006: 19.5 1 subad. migrating Kalkandere.
2007: 18.5 1 imm. migrating Maden Köprubasi.
A small population on 10-150 pairs breeds in Turkey, mainly in central Anatolian plateau and between Van and Erzurum. Regularly reported from valleys between Ispir and Sivri Kaya, where it probably breeds.
On migration in NE Pontics max. 20 in spring and 29 in autumn (Shirihai et al. 2000).

50. **Steppe Eagle** *Aquila nipalensis orientalis* **Steppeørn**
2005: 17.5 1 imm. migrating N Hopa.
2006: 20.5 1 2 cal. year migrating Hopa.
Apparently scarce so late in spring, but predictably commoner during spring peak period in March. In spring 1994, 107 counted at Hoba/Borcka, but main migration may pass early in spring. I would

not be surprised if daily totals of hundreds might be recorded then! In Eilat, Israel spring numbers have exceeded 75.000 with no breeding population between here and Central Asia; however, the majority are suspected to pass east to Hopa.
Autumn counts at Borcksa gave 434 in 1976.

51. **Greater Spotted Eagle** *Aquila clanga* **Stor Skrigeørn**
2006: 20.5 1 imm./subad. migrating Hopa.
2007: 19.5 1 imm. migrating Hopa.
Mainly winter visitor, being regular in small numbers in the south Mediterranean deltas, especially at Göksu and Tarsus deltas with daily max. of 5 Nov-March, and up to 20 in entire Göksu delta area. On migration in NE Pontics max. 24 in spring and 21 in autumn (Shirihai et al. 2000).

52. **Lesser Spotted Eagle** *Aquila pomarina* **Lille Skrigeørn**
2005: 17.5 1 imm. migrating Rize - 17.5 11 (of which 2 3 cal year and 3 2 cal year) migrating Hopa. - 17.5 1 imm. Ardahan.
2006: 17.5 1 ad. Yarhisar – 19.5 7 migrating Kalkandere – 20.5 3 imm. migrating Hopa – 21.5 5 (of which 2 adults) Ardahan – 21.5 2 ad. Ardahan-Kars.
2007: 15.5 4 immature Göksu Delta – 18.3 3 migrating Toprakkale between Yoncalic and Maden Köprubasi – 19.5 7 migrating Hopa (5 imm.) -20.5 5 (of which 4 adults) Ardahan – 21.5 1 Sim Er hotel, Dogubayazit.
Turkish breeding population not exceeding 100 pairs, the densest population is found in NE turkey, e.g. at Ardahan.
Spring migration continues into May. In NE Pontics 277 noted in 1977 (Shirihai et al. 2000). A larger passage may be observed at Gulf of Iskenderun near Adana (the Belen Pass) both autumn and spring, based on the massive migration present at Bourgas (Bulgaria), Bosphorus and northern Israel/Palestina, where days over 15.000 regularly registrated. Autumn counts in NE Pontics gave 730 in 1976; 1299 counted Belen Pass in 1976 (Shirihai et al. 2000).
Concerning ID: all were typical, rather small-winged and compact birds with the typical upperparts, but for 2 cal years now bleached compared to the cleaner and warmer impression of fresh autumn juveniles, and with greater coverts bar reduced by wear, thus more similar to adult.
Underparts appears in most cases rather uniform with a faint paler coverts than flight feathers - a normal field impression of the species. The double-patch at the wing-bend (created by pale bases to primaries and primary coverts), so often cited in the literature on the base of Forsman 1997, was as usual only observable at close range and works - as many other primary pattern features in raptors - much better in photos than in the field.
If the "double-patch" looks like two evenly distinct "moons", it is a strong pointer towards Lesser-spotted - in combination with yellowish to mid-brown coverts diagnostic. Quite a number of Lesser Spotted shows the pale bases to the primaries clearly more distinctive than the pale primary coverts bases, creating a pattern more in line with expected from Greater Spotted Eagle *A. clanga*. Controversially, many Greater Spotted have an indication of pale primary coverts bases - but only in one case (a paler bird, seen near Dubai, UAE, Nov. 2002) creating a distinctive double-patch as evident as in any Lesser Spotted (own obs, photo). This bird was better identified on general jizz and shape, greyness of under wing coverts and a more typical upperpart of Greater Spotted.
Apart from feather characters (which often makes ID straightforward), the differences in wing-tip are important: Greater shows a much squarer outer hand, as pp 3-6 (counted outwards) are longer than in Lesser, where these feather are shorter (like they have been trimmed), and often enforces a slight pointed rather than square wing-tip. Also, the inner primaries of Greater Spotted have paler, almost unbarred outer half, creating an indication of a pale outer wedge (half version of Imperial

and Booted Eagle). In Lesser, the more evenly barred feathers does create a similar pale area. This character, described by Svensson (1986) was introduced as a minor character - but the pattern have added to the ID of a number of odd-looking birds since then, and is thus effective as a supporting field mark.

53. **Short-toed Eagle** *Circaetus gallicus* **Slangeørn**
2005: Observed almost daily throughout, with concentration of 5 immatures 13.5 in Göksu Delta as the largest number. Otherwise among the most common raptors (although never numerous). Probably a good deal of migrating birds involved; 2 sec. cal. year migrated Hopa 17.5. Most seen were immatures, based on freshly moulted p1-3 in otherwise unmoulted wing; This is in line with Forsman (1997), who informs that older birds always have several generations of dissimilar worn flight feathers caused by incomplete yearly moult.
2006: Much scarcer than in 2005 (situation opposite to Booted Eagle): 14.5 1 ad. Göksu Delta – 18.5 1 Gelinkaya-Maden Köprubasi – 20.5 1 migrating Hopa – 24.5 1 ad. Nemrut Dagi – 24.5 1 Kahta-Adiyaman.
2007: 15.5 3 Göksu Delta – 20.5 1 Sogoksu – 21.5 1 Tendürek Gecedi – 22.5 1 Sucete, Raman Dagi – 25.5 2 River Euphrates S of Birezik.
Breeding population in Turkey 2000-8000 pairs. Breeds in dry country with scattered trees and bushes, often along hillsides, which are used for hunting.
In NE Pontics max. 395 counted in autumn and in 243 in spring. More common Belen Pass, where max. 728 counted in autumn; Bosphorus max. counts of 2517. (Shirihai et al. 2000). In spring, 90 migrating in about one hour 26.3 2002 at Antalya (Herbøl 2003).

54. **Booted Eagle** *Hiereatus pennatus* **Dværgørn**
2005: 13.5 1 pale morph Tarsus. - 18.5 1 dark morph Ardahan.
2006: 14.5 1 pale morph Adana-Silifke – 17.5 1 pale Karhan-Erzinzan – 18.5 2 (dark and pale morph) Erzinzan-Mercan - 18.5 1 pale morph Gödker- 18.5 1 dark morph Eskipolat – 18.5 1 dark morph Maden Köprubasi -18.5 2 (dark+pale morph) Ispir – 19.5 2 migrating (dark + pale morph) Kalkandere – 20.5 2 migrating (pale+dark) + 1 pale morph resting Hopa – 21.5 1 pale morph Ardahan – 23.5 1 pale morph Kozluk.
2007: 17.5 1 pale morph Cöl Gölü – 17.5 1 brown morph Merzan – 19.2 2 (dark + pale morph) migrating Hopa – 24.5 1 pale morph Damlica.
Scarce Turkish breeder with an estimated population on some hundreds pairs (Forsman 1997). The rather large number in 2006 indicates, that late migrants parly were involved.
In autumn migration 473 counted NE Pontics and 588 Belen Pass.
The species is dimorphed. In E and C Turkey in 2005-2007, 61% pale, 1% brown and 38% dark morphs (n=23). This is in line with findings in Balkan, Turkey and Israel; 60% pale, 37% dark and 3% brown (n=325) (Malling Olsen & Tofte in press.).

55. **Bonelli´s Eagle** *Hieraetus fasciatus* **Høgeørn**
2007: 23.5 1 2nd cal year Narince.
Scarce breeder, population 50-500 pairs in Turkey (Gensbøl 1995), most in western half of the country. In southern Turkey, most often observed Halfeti, where breeding, e.g. a pair 4 km. before Halfeti April 2007 (P. ter Heide in e-mail). Also occurs hilly country with gorges between Adana and Batman, and at Isikli (e.g. 2 adults 7.6 2006). Immatures sometimes seen away from breeding sites, e.g. near Atatürk Baraji and at Göksu Delta (Occhiato 2001, Jan Kiel & Simon Berg Pedersen in e-mail).

56. **Black Kite** *Milvus migrans* **Sort Glente**
Rather scarce, but with some concentrations in 2006.
2005: Most 17.5 25 migrating Hopa – 16.5 9 Basmarschmag.
2006: Most 15.5 22 north of Mut – 17.5 12 Sivas – 17.5 75 Yarhisar. On migration 19.5 8 Kalkandere – 20.5 2 Debarapazi-Hoba – 20.5 22 Hopa.
2007: Mostly singletons, apart from 18.5 6 8 (of which 2 migrating) Toprakkale between Yoncalic and Maden Köprubasi – 18.5 2 Ovitdagi Gecedi – 19.5 58 Hopa.
The autumn raptor counts at Borcksa in 1976 gave 5775 birds (Shirihai et al. 2000), and in spring g 1994, 9.069 were counted at Borcksa during an 8 weeks survey (Magnin & Yarar 1997).
Gensbøl (1994) mentions 100-1000 breeding pairs in Turkey with strong decrease in recent years, probably caused by hunting and more extensive agriculture, leaving fewer carcasses and garbage avaible for this notorious scavenger.

57. **Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus* **Rørhøg**
Common in extensive wetlands, to some degree agricultural lands.
2005: Most 13.5 20 Göksu Delta - 15.5 15 Sultan Sazligi - 19-5 7 Ercek Gölü - 23.5 25 Göksü Delta, but present in most suitable habitats. The majority were younger birds, only a few adult males seen. 3 2 cal. years migrated Hopa 18.5 during the massive raptor migration.
2006: Most 14.5 20 Göksu Delta – 17.5 30 Sultan Sazligi – 21.5 4 Ardahan – 21.5 5 (of which 2 pairs with nests) Kars – 22.5 5 Bendimahi Marshes, Van Gölü. On migration 18.5 2 brown Kalkandere.
2007: Most 14.5 50 Akgöl, Göksu Delta (mainly 2nd cal. Years) – 15.5 6 Göksu Delta – 16.5 5 Sultan Sazligi -20.5 6 Ardahan -20.5 7 Kars – 20.5 5 Saz Gölü. On migration 14.5 1 2nd cal. Year Mezbahane – 20.5 1 3rd cal year male Tendürek Gecedi.
Breeding population in Turkey 2000-8000 pairs (Gensbøl 1995), mainly in extensive marshland with a somewhat scattered population. In NE Pontics 251 counted in spring and 385 in autumn (Shirihai et al. 2000).

58. **Montagu´s Harrier** *Circus pygargus* **Hedehøg**
2005: 13.5 1 adult male Akgöl, Göksu Delta - 15.5 1 adult female Kogunga - 17.5 1 ad. male Ardahan - 18.5 3 males (of which 2 adults and 1 3 cal. Year) and 2 adult females small water pond near Kars (probably a small breeding colony) - 19.5 2 ad. males near Igdir.
2006: 21.5 1 adult male + 1 2nd cal. Year male Kars – 22.5 1 ad. male migrating north Gulicar.
2007: 14.5 1 2nd cal. year Akgöl, Göksu Delta – 20.5 4 ad. (3 males+1 female) Kars – 20.5 12 Saz Gölü (6 ad. males + 3 ad. females + 3 2nd cal. years) – 21.5 1 brown Dogubayazit-Tendürek Gecedi – 21.5 2 ad. males Bulanik.
Scarce breeder in Turkey, with population between 200 and 1000 pairs. Patchily distributed in extensive steppe landscape mixed with wetlands. The marshes between Ardahan and Ararat is the stronghole in Eastern Turkey and locally houses a dense population.
On migration in NE Pontics max. 64 in spring and 124 in autumn (Shirihai et al. 2000).

59. **Pallid Harrier** *Circus macrourus* **Steppehøg**
2005: 16.5 1 2nd cal. year Baskarschmag - 18.5 1 2nd cal. Year migrating Hopa.
The bird 16.5 was photoed. A rather tricky individual, first suspected on flight set similar to Hen Harrier (with both higher and lower, but still stiff wing-beats compared to the "ballet-dancing", red-kite like of most Montagu´s). Compared to Montagu´s, the head was larger, the arm longer and broader with straighter leading edge and the hand shorter - differences in jizz and flight set are in most cases surprising evident!

The bird showed unusually dark head-markings, making the head mainly dark at distance. The pale neck ring was narrower than usual, but complete. The dark neck boa was at its maximum, being very extensive and almost complete. In 1 years, head-pattern is the most striking difference between Pallid and Montagu´s. Pallid have a complete pale neck-ring (often whitish and contrasting to warmer-tinged underparts), enforced by the extensive dark neck-boa. Both areas are at most much weaker defined and concentrated to sides of neck in Montagu´s, which furthermore shows broader and more extensive pale areas around eye, creating an open-faced look compared to the more aggressive of Pallid.

Also, the inner primaries differs. In Montagu´s, all primaries have black tips to create a complete black surrounding to the wing tip, as a continuing part of the large dark secondary panel. Few birds have more worn primary tips by spring, and may appear less well marked. Pallid lacks the dark tips to the inner primaries, instead showing weak greyer tips. This creates a larger pale area between the dark secondary panel and the narrower, difffuser greyish-tinged wing tip. In Pallid, the primary bases may be white, creating a pale "boomerang" around the carpal; this normally lacks in Montagu´s (but may be present in up to 1%). However, the "boomerang" - so often cited as a main character (but moderated somewhat by the creator of the idea, Forsman 1997), is rarely prominent enough to be considered a main character in 1 years, but seems to be more important in older females (= cold coloured birds showing weak head pattern, streaked breast and whitish belly). However, these are better identified on dark secondaries and under wing-coverts, crating an impression of a bicolored underwing with broad dark arm against rather pale hand with just faint dark tip and grey trailing edge to innerhand.

The plumage was completely juvenile. Most Montagu´s at this time have a more advanced moult, with larger parts of head, body, inner coverts an in 90% the central tail feathers renewed to create a "blob" at the tail-tip (Forsman 1997, Malling Olsen 2002, A. Corso & KMO pers. obs). A still fully juvenile migrating bird by May is more likely to be Pallid than Montagu´s - however, go for jizz, head- pattern and inner primary tips first! I cannot too often cite Håkon Delin´s wise words concerning ID of Pallid versus Montagu´s Harrier from Eilat, 1992: "If the two were as common as Common and Rough-legged Buzzards at home, we will learn to regard them as even more different from each other".

ID of harriers most recently covered by Malling Olsen 2003 (and KMO & C.C. Tofte in prep.). A detailed summary of the rump characters is published recently (Thiger 2006).

In Turkey, Pallid Harrier is scarce migrant. At Borcka in autumn 1976, 133 were noted (compared to 124 Montagu´s Harriers and 716 Pallid/Montagu´s).

There is a tendency for the spring migration to follow a more westerly route than in autumn, with peak numbers noted Sicily and South Italy; max. 130 in 2001 (Corso & Cardelli 2004); in spring 1994, 11 counted NE Pontics. Noticably is a report on 200 Montagu´s/Pallid Harriers passing Kazbegi, Georgia 9.5 2004 (Alfrey & Spittle 2004). Most supposed to be Montagu´s according to the time, with the main passage of Pallid generally peaking earlier in spring, probably April. C. Leth (in litt.) noted 35 Montagu´s and two Pallids migrating in just one hour at Kagbezi early May 2005.

60. **Long-legged Buzzard** *Buteo rufinis* **Ørnevåge**

2005: Widespread. Noted daily, most 16.5 8 Baskarschmag.

2006: Most 15.5 4 Karamen-Eregli – 17.5 4 Sultan Sazligi - 17.5 10 Kayseri-Sarkisla – 17.5 10 Sarkisla-Sivas – 17.5 6 Sivas-Kizildag Gecedi. On migration 18.5 1 Kalkandere.

2007: Rather widespread throughout. Most 16.5 3 2nd cal. year Sultan Sazligi – 17.5 3 Cöl Gölü - 17.5 3 Sarkisla-Sivas – 18.5 9 Altunkent-Askale – 22.5 3 Batman-Hasankeyf – 25.5 2 Halfeti-Birezik. Adult with nest seen 16.5 Kavdarli, and pair in display at >2000 m near Yoncalic, Pontic Mountains.

Turkish breeding population is between 2000 and 10.000 pairs (Gensbøl 1995). Scarce on migration. Common and widespread in open landscape, especially steppes. Prefers drier and less vegetated areas than Steppe Buzzard. Often seen on roadsine pylons. Few% have been of the dark morph.

61. **Steppe (Common**) **Buzzard** *Buteo buteo vulpinus* **Steppevåge (Musvåge)**
2005: Most noticeable was 255 2nd cal. years migrating at Hopa during the massive Honey Buzzard migration 18.5. Otherwise frequently observed, especially in wooden areas, although never matching Long-legged Buzzard in numbers. Some beautiful foxy-red birds observed.
2006: On migration: 19.5 204 Kalkandere – 20.5 10 Izikdere-Hopa – 20.5 160 Hopa – 20.5 29 Borcka. All migrating involved 2 cal. Year birds. Otherwise rather common in wooden hilly landscape, most 17.5 3 Karhan – 19.5 4 Sivri Kaya – 20.5 3 Ardahan-Kars.
2007: Rather widespread throughout, with some concentration of probably settling migratory birds, most 19.5 15 Cam Gecedi – 20.5 4 Tendürek Gecedi. On migration 18.5 7 Toprakkale between Yoncalic and Maden Köprubasi – 18.5 2 Maden Köprubasi – 19.5 229 Hopa (1 3rd cal. year, the rest 2nd cal. years).
The breeding population of Turkey is estimated to 5.000-25.000 pairs (Gensbøl 1995) mainly in the northern part of the country.
In spring migration, 136.327 counted at NE Pontics in 1994, with peak first half of April. At Eilat, Israel max. 465.827 counted in spring, with max. Day counts of 130.000 (Shirihai et al. 2000).
Autumn migration at Borcksa/Arhavi in NE-Turkey is massive, with 205.000 counted in 1976 daily max. 55.000), and around 200.000 in 1985 (M. Henriksen pers. comm). Controversially, the species is much scarcer in Eilat in autumn, where majority crossed Red Sea via Saudi Arabia and Yemen to Djibouti and on to the wintering quarters in East Africa.
A frustrating large individual observed Ardahan in May 2007.

62. **Honey Buzzard** *Pernis apivorus* **Hvepsevåge**
2005: 18.5 extensive migration along the Black Sea Coast: at around 08:00 245 passed Rize in a single group, and between 10:15 and 12:20 3.615 passed Hopa. The migration was easily observed from the outskirts of the town; we predicted the light easterly wind to make the crossing immediately east of the town, which proved right! Other observations: 17.5 19 migrating Ovitdagi Gecedi – 19.5 17 migrating Halikisla – 20.5 1 Gulicar – 21.5 1 Birezik.
2006: On migration: 18.5 170 ad. Kalkandere – 20.5 17 Debarapazi-Hoba – 20.5 480 Hopa – 20.5 1 Borcka. Other observations: 18.5 1 ad. Mercan-Askale – 20.5 1 Artvin-Savsat – 24.5 1 ad. Siverik-Kahta – 25.5 1 Birezik.
2007: 19.5 470 ad. migrating Hopa – 22.5 2 migrating Sucete, Raman Dagi – 23.5 1 migrating Diyarbakir-Siverik – 25.5 1 migrating River Euphrates S of Birezik.
Regarding the very large migration noted autumn 1976 at Borcksa (137.600), we suspected this region to be a main migration routes used also in spring. At Eilat, Israel 250.000-850.000 pass each spring with peak early May (Shirihai 1996) and daily counts exceeding 200.000! Of these, a considerable part eventually heads for Europe via Iskenderun into Central and Western Turkey, but still leaving hundreds of thousands possible heading for Eastern Russia and Central Asia. In spring 1994, 25.183 were counted during an 8 weeks survey (Magnin & Yarar 1997). In theory, days with 50-100.000 could pass Hopa area first part of May, but this is still to be discovered! 9.5 2004 1190 passed Kazbegi, Georgia (Alfrey & Spittle 2004). In NE-E- winds, the migration of raptors pass near the Black Sea coastline, and are observed from the outskirs of the town. In light and westerly winds the main migration pass higher up in the mountains, closer to the passes between Hopa and Borcka.

Very few has visited this area in recent years in autumn. 7.9 2001 1191 Honey Buzzards among with e.g. 369 Black Kites were passing near Hoba within a few hours (Wierda 2001).
It is recommended that more actual raptor migrations counts are being arranged, especially regarding the huge amount of new information about ID and ageing published in recent years.
Scarce breeder in Turkey. Some hundreds pairs breeds, mainly in the NW (Gensbøl 1995).

63. **Northern Goshawk** *Accipiter gentilis* **Duehøg**
2006: 16.5 1 Kalki Dag – 18.5 1 Erzinzan-Mercan.
2007: 18.5 1 Sivri Kaya
In NE Pontics max. 12 counted in spring and 53 in autumn (Shirihai et al. 2000).

64. **Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*
2005: 18.5 1 Kars - 19.5 1 Ishak Pasa. **Spurvehøg**
In NE Pontics, max. 3966 counted in spring and 1057 in autumn (Shirihai et al. 2000).

65. **Levant Sparrowhawk** *Accipiper brevipes* **Balkanhøg**
2005: 17.5 13 migrating Hopa - 20.5 1 ad. male Sariskona (in deciduous forest 15 km. east of Baykan).
2006: 19.5 2 migrating Kalkandere – 20.5 8 migrating Hopa – 22.5 1 Ishak Pasa – 23.5 1 Van-Tatvan.
2007: 18.5 1 ad. male Maden Köprubasi – 19.5 4 migrating Hopa.
Breeding population in Turkey is estimated 100-1000 pairs, mainly in western and central part (e.g. woodlands along south coast resorts of Alanya, although probably overlooked in the east, with several observations in breeding habitat in recent years, such as at Maden Köprubasi even in 2004. (Cramps & Simmons 1980, Gensbøl 1994, Ortvad 2004). Prefers deciduous forest with plantation in hilly areas.
Autumn migration counts at Borcka in 1976 gave 290 birds. At Eilat, up to 49.000 has been noted in a spring, and in autumn, up to 44.000 North Israel; at Bosphorus, autumn counts have reached over 7000 (Gensbøl 1995), with day counts exceeding 1500 mid. Sept. The majority follows the route from Israel/Palestine heading westwards at Iskenderun near Adana; at Belen Pass 2951 counted autumn 1976, 2478 13-17.9 1988 and 587 7-16.9 1981 (Shirihai et al. 2000).
Spring migration counts in NE Pontic gave max. 1945 (Shirihai et al. 2000), peaking in the latter part of April.
The identification from Sparrowhawk during migration is not too difficult; the narrower hand, especially evident when soaring, creates a wing-shape more similar to a falcon (especially Lesser Kestrel); while soaring Sparrowhawks bears reminiscence to Hen Harrier regarding wing-shape - Levant here have more of a Pallid Harrier impression! The wing-beats are shallower and the flight route straight - slightly undulating in migrating Sparrowhawks, and the tail often looks short with slightly rounded corners. Interesting, in "mystery bird competitions" Levant is often misidentified as a Goshawk, which is rarely the case in Sparrowhawk. This gives an idea of the jizz, although the much larger size of Goshawk will appear more than evident in the field.

66. **Common Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus* **Tårnfalk**
Widespread in small numbers.
2006: Most 18.5 7 Erzinzan-Mercan – 2-22.5 daily max. 3 Ishak Pasa.
2007: Most 14.5 2 Akgöl, Göksu Delta – 15.5 3 Göksu Delta – 15.5 4 Pinarbasi – 19.5 2 (pair with nest) Gelinkaya – 20.5 2 Saz Gölü – 20.5 2 Ishak Pasa – 21.5 3 Bulanik – 23.5 2 Buzak-Narince – 24.5 3 Damlica – 25.5 4 (of which 2 ad.males).

67. **Lesser Kestrel** *Falco naumanni* **Lille Tårnfalk**
2005: 13.5 1 Adana - Erdemli. - 15.5 4 near Kayseri - 20.5 6 ad. males Van Fort (a breeding site) - 20.5 3 Sanli Urfa - 21.5 1 ad. male Birezik "Ibis Wadi".
2006: 15.5 20 in breeding colony Adabag near Eregli – 17.5 4 Kayseri-Sarkisla – 23.5 2 males Bitlis.
2007: 20.5 4 (of which 1 adult male) Kars – 25.52 (of which 1 adult female) Halfeti.
Several unidentified Common/Lesser Kestrels observed.
1000-6000 pairs breeds Turkey, scattered throughout the country, but probably decreasing.

68. **Eurasian Hobby** *Falco subbuteo* **Lærkefalk**
Widespread. Mainly singletons, apart from
2005: Most 15.5 2 ad. Sultan Sazligi - 15.5 2 near Sivas.
2006: Most 23.5 2 Van-Tatvan.
2007: Most 16.5 2 Ovaciftlik – 17.5 2 Kizilham Gecedi-Erzinzan – 19.5 4 Altunkent-Askale – 18.5 3 ad. (of which 1 pair near nest) Gelinkaya – 21.5 2 Bulanik. A bird migrated 18.5 Hopa.
Several thousand pairs breeds scattered throughout Turkey. On migration in NE Pontics, max. 41 in spring and 189 in autumn (Shirihai et al. 2000).

69. **Red-footed Falcon** *Falco vespertinus* **Aftenfalk**
2005: 16.5 1 2 cal. year female Sivri Kaya. - 18.5 1 female Igdir - 18.5 1 2 cal. year female Serpmetas.
2006: 19.5 5 migrating and 160 resting Kalkandere (of which 14 adult males + 10 2 cal. year males + 13 ad. females + 5 2 cal. year females) – 20.5 14 Kalkandere – 20.5 1 Ardesen – 20.5 1 male+ 2 females migrating Hopa.
2007: 20.5 1 male Ishak Pasa.
Migrant in varying numbers. In autumn, day-counts of several thousands in as well Burgas (Bulgaria) and Northern Israel indicates heavy passage through Central and Southern Turkey, with potential large concentrations at Adana region. Spring migration generally follows a more westerly route across the Mediterranean, with thousands passing Sicily, but as indicated by our 2006 observations, large concentrations occur irregularly in Turkey, mainly following periods of bad migration weather. In NW Turkey several thousands sometimes seen late May.

70. **Eleonora´s Falcon** *Falco eleonorae* **Eleonorafalk**
2007: 14.5 1 pale morph Kizkulesi between Erdemli and Mezbahane.
An unidentifyed Hobby/Eleonora´s Falcon seen 25.5 Kiji Restaurant, Birezik.
10-100 pairs breeds Turkey, mainly offshore islands in the west. Along SE coast regular in spring Göksu Delta, probably hunting birds from Cyprus. 2 claimed Ibis Wadi, Birezik May 2007.

71. **Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus brookei* **Vandrefalk**
2005: 13.5 1 imm. Göksu Delta - 14.5 1 Kalki Dag.
2006: 21.5 1 2nd cal. Year Ishak Pasa – 26.5 1 ad. male Birezik.
2007: 14.5 1 ad. Mezbahane.
A rather widespread breeder with population between 500 and 2000 pairs, mainly in mountain areas throughout the country. Represented by the rather small and dark ssp. *brookei*; the large and often pale tundra breeding from *calidus*, which in many cased are plumagewise closer to Barbary Falcon (but almost invariable larger) and - more serious to Saker Falcon - must migrate through Turkey, and possible winters regularly. Luckily, in flight these often tricky birds are true Peregrines,

showing rather uniform underwing and short broad arm against long. Pointed wings, differing from the evenly broader wings with longer arm and rounder, fuller wing-tip (as well as clearly bicoloured underwing in all (but pale adult) Saker Falcons (Corso & Malling Olsen in prep.).

72. **Caucasian Black Grouse** *Tetrao mlokosiewiszi* **Sort Urfugl**
2005: 19.5 4 males and 2 females Sivri Kaya.
2006: 19.5 4 males + 3 females Sivri Kaya – 20.5 1 male Cam Gecedi.
2007: 18.5 5 (of which 4 males+1 female) Sivri Kaya.
The Sivri Kaya birds are easily observed if weather permits it: periods with low clouds and poor visibility are regular. In 2005, the birds were observed in the afternoon app. 500 m. south of the minaret in Sivri Kaya (immediately south of the cemetery) from the main road, in 2006 and 2007 2 km. further to the south in the direction of Ovitdagi Gecedi. Also seen from the main road 4.9 km. south of the minaret in Sivri Kaya (Lindblad 2006).
The grouses appeared in dwarf rhododendron vegetation above the tree limit, regularly performing their strange display on exposed snow patches. Display most intense some hours after sunset, being most active 0830-0915, sometimes in afternoons between 15 and 17.
The birds proved are easily seen from the road in May, but retreat much higher up in the mountains during summer and may be hard to get in late summer/autumn. To get closer views take the track at the cemetery and follow it behind some small huts into the mountain. Trekking for about an hour brings you closer to the leks of the males. The Gem gives further directions for alternative locations at Sivri Kaya. A local guide, Mustafa Sari, lives in Sivri Kaya village and serve as guide for a reasonable amount of money. He hardly speak English, but one word is enough: "Keklik" or "Blackcock". Sari´s guide service is probably the best way of getting this species in summer (see also Ganch 2000, Henriks 2004).
200-1000 pairs breeds in NE Turkey, restricted to few spots in the Pontic Mountains, with Sivri Kaya as the best known, and other sites being Ayder near Artvin (H. Vikkelsø Rasmussen in litt.), Kaklar Daglari and Cam Gecedi east of Savsat (Green & Moorhouse 1995, own obs). The population has decreased, but the estimates might be too low with many potential areas still unvisited.
The breeding habit is alpine meadows with dwarf rhododendrons, juniper and birches between 1700-3300 m, often in steep well-vegetated slopes (Tucker & Heath 1994).

73. **Caspian Snowcock** *Tetraogallus caspicus* **Kaspisk Kongehøne**
2005: 15.5 4 Cimbar Bogazi, Demirkacik – 15.5 1 Kalki Dag.
2006: 16.5 7 Cimbar Bogazi, Demirkazik – 18.5 1 Ovitdagi Gecedi.
2007: 16.5 6 Cimbar Bogazi, Demirkazik.
The birds in the morning s at Cimbar Bogazi are easily heard from the top of the hill, where the tractor takes you to. Revealing signtings proves a harder task, but following intensive search a fine singing males were seen well in telescope in 2006 and 2007! The calls are a most distinct part of the soundscape: like far-crying Curlews with a touch of a Loon! Said to be most actively heard calling in the morning (esp. Just after dawn and 8-10), but many reports mentions song thoughout the day. Cimbar Bogazi is the main site in May, but the species must be widespread up there in all suitable habits. Accomodation, including tractor transportation and dinner/breakfast and was priced 60 Europ´s per person in 2007.
Walking up to the site take efforts. Follow the tractor track from behind the mountaineers centre at Cucurbak, and turn left after some kilometres when the tractor track divides. The walk takes 2-3 hours (Christian Leth pers. comm). Alternatively, take the strenuous trek through the deep gorge behind the mountaineers centre or in the steep gorge. This is among the hardest ways of birding,

and only recommanded if you are absolutely fit and equipped with mountain footwear. The first part of the gorge is moderadely easy, but the last part will include passages of real mountain climbing, including passage of a “minuature Hillary Step” raising vertically some meters. Both sites are described in Gosney 1992. Alternatively camp within the remote area of Aladag (see direction in Kristensen 1999, commenting on Gosney 1992).

Later in the summer, the birds disappears further up in the mountains. A new site - the "chromium mine" (Ganch 2000) is then the most acceccible place. *Direction*: from village of Pinarbasi a few km. north of Demirkazik, a dirt road leads to the north. Follow the track for 2,75 km until it curves uphills. Drive for further 4.1 km. to a saddle. A further 350 m. a dirt track (passable with 4 wheel drive only) goes for some km´s.until it ends. From here walk towards the east to a deserted house (the chromium mine) and scan the hills. By other cars follow the main road for a further 1-1 km. to a small stream with signs of a camping site. From here follow a track leading south onto the deserted house. The walk takes 45-60 minutes.

Also found between Ovitdagi Gecedi and Sivri Kaya (further along the track described under Caucasian Black Grouse, where also heard throughout the day from the main road (Ortvad 2004, Malling Olsen 2005); observed at the “Black Grouse outlooks” 4-4.9 km. south of the minaret in Sivri Kaya and up to 6-7km.S of Sivri Kaya (Johansson et al. 2002, Lindblad 2006, Olof Jönsson per sms); also Ayder near Artvin (H. Vikkelsøe Rasmussen in litt.).

As for Caucasian Black Grouse, May is far the easiest month, as the birds display lower down than in summer.

TheTurkish population is estimated to 200-2000 pairs, restricted to the Aladag/Demirkazik range, the Pontic mountains (Kackar Daglari, Sivra Kaya area, Ayder near Artvin) and Cilo/Sat Daglari near Hakkari. Found on steep slopes with low vegetation with areas with large rocks, (used for song-posts), well above the tree line in the alpine and subalpine zone between 1800 and 4000 meters (lowest early in the season, by mid summer normally well >3000 m).

The population in Turkey remains poorly known, apart from the Demirkazik population; investigations of mountain ranges of Erciyes Dagi (south of Kayseri) and Mount Ararat-range could lead to discovery of new populations, although Hasan Safak mentions that the species is not present at Erciyes Dagi.

74. **Black Francolin** *Francolinus francolinus* **Sort Frankolin**

2005: 13.5 1 male + 1 female Akgöl, Göksü delta - 22.5 2 heard gravel pits north of Birezik, at the western bank of Euphrates.

2006: 14.5 2 males flushed at observation tower Akgöl, Göksu Delta.

2007: 14.5 3 singing Akgöl, Göksu Delta – 24.5 1 Gravel Pits, Birezik – 26.5 4 Gravel Pits, Birezik.

Local and scarce breeding bird in Turkey, probably <1000 pairs. The densiest population is found in the region of Göksu, Tarsus and Seyhan Deltas. The traditional site is the coastal scrub on the southern shore of Akgöl Lake, between the village and the new observation tower. Most observers hear several singing here in early mornings, however sings throughout the day, and often active in late afternoons. Another good area is around the holiday village, where we in 2005 we were gifted by the sight of a free posing pair, and in 2007 with a singing male. The gravel pits at Birezik is another reliable site.

The habitat is low-lying scrubby areas in the vicinity of water, such as near coastlines, along rivers or in swamps. Apart from the deltas area, present in suitable habitats in the southeast along the Syrian border; e.g. along main rivers. Has been observed at Cizre.

The song is very characteristic: a 4-5 toned “telegraphic tone” bearing reminiscence of a hoarse domestic Cock (= Red Junglefowl *Gallus gallus*).

75. **See See Partridge** *Amnoperdix griseogularis* **Si Si Ørkenhøne**
2005: 22.5 4 Ibis Wadi, Birezik - 22.5 2 small wadi opposite Isik Restaurant, Birezik.
2006: 25.5 4 Ibis Wadi, Birezik – 26.5 4 Ibis Wadi, Birezik.
2007: 25.5 2 Ibis Wadi, Birezik.
Found in dry or semi-dry habitat, such as wadis with short vegetation on top, in the vicinity of water, frequently up to 2000 m. Birezik is the easiest site for the species, but also found Halfeti and in the SE between Cizre and Idil.
In Birezik, main sites are:

- "Ibis wadi" = the gorge at the ibis centre. Several pairs occurs, max. 6 here May 2007 (Olof Jönsson per sms), but sometimes missed, as the birds appear rather shy and disappears on the slopes if disturbed.
- "Isik Restaurant wadi". Further to the north of the "Ibis Wadi", a small wadi leads in two directions. Often observed very close to the entrance.
- Eastern edge of Birezik. A few hundred meters east of the tunnel, at a lorry stop, an open area has in 2007 proved a good spot, with up to 4 easily noted Chris Lansdell per e-mail)
- About 15 km. south of Birezik, in wadies in half desert (olof Jönsson per sms).

Compared to Sand Partridge *A. heyi* of the Middle East, prefest less dry, more vegetated habit. The call was noted as a rather far-crying series "o-e o-e o-e…." with the regularity of a water drop"; also a hoarse and nasal series of "kück kück…" was heard.

76. **Chukar** *Alectoris chukar* **Chukarhøne**
Rather widespread, and observed in a number of habits, from dry steppe-like agricultural landscape to mountains up to 3000 m. (at the Snowcock site at Demirkazik). Nowhere common, and mostly singletons seen.
2005: Largest numbers 18-19.4 daily max. 4 Ishak Pasa – 21.5 3 "Ibis Wadi", Birezik.
2006: Largest numbers 16.5 10 Cimbar Gecedi, Demirkazik – 16.5 5 Kalki Dag – 24.5 4 Nemrut Dagi.
2007: 16.5 1 Cimbar Bogazi, Demirkazik – 16.5 4 Demirkazik – 17.5 1 Tuzla Gölü.

77. **Common Quail** *Coturnix coturnix* **Vagtel**
2005: 22.5 1 Durnalik.
2006: 21.5 3 Kars-Halikisla.
2007: 21.5 2 Bulanik.

78. **Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus* **Vandrikse**
2005: 19.5 1 South Van Marshes - 22.5 1 River Euphrates south of Birezik.
2007: 16.5 2 Sultan Sazligi.

79. **Common Moorhen** *Gallinalo chloropus* **Grønbenet Rørhøne**
2005: Scattered observations in wetlands and along channels, most 20 River Euphrates south of Birezik.
2006. NE and E only: 21.5 1 Ardahan – 25.5 10 Birezik (incl. pair with 3 pulli).
2007: 14.5 4 Akgöl, Göksu Delta – 20.5 1 Ardahan – 21.5 5 Bendimahi – 24.5 3 Gravel Pits, Birezik – 25.5 10 River Euphrates S of Birezik.

80. **Common Coot** *Fulica atra* **Blishøne**
Locally common in wetlands.

2005: Most 13.5 600 Lake Akgöl, Göksu Delta – 15.5 100 Sultan Sazligi - 17.5 30 Ardahan - 17.5 30 Cildir Gölü - 19.4 40 Erzek Gölü - 19.5 250 South Van Marshes. A pair with pull as well as 125 adults at River Euphrates south of Birezik 22.5.
2006: Most 14.5 300 Akgöl, Göksu Delta – 17.5 100 Sivas – 21.5 20 Ardahan – 21.5 80 Kars – 22.5 200 Bendimahi Marshes, Van Gölü – 25.5 130 Birezik (several pairs with youngs).
2007: Most 14.5 160 Akgöl, Göksu Delta – 17.5 30 Tödürge Gölü – 18.5 80 Erzinzan-Altunkent-20.5 40 Ardahan – 20.5 50 Kars – 20.5 300 Saz Gölü – 21.5 250 Aydinlar -25.5 250 (several pairs with youngs) River Euphrates S of Birezik

81. **Purple Swamphen** *Porpohyrio porphyrio caspius* **Sultanhøne**
2005: 13.5 4 Akgöl, Göksu Delta.
2006: 14.5 7 Akgöl, Göksu Delta.
2007: 14.5 15 Akgöl, Göksu Delta.
In Turkey represented by the grey-headed taxon *caspius*, sometimes regarded as a species of its own. The Göksu Delta holds most of the Turkish population of 100-300 pairs. Best seen (although rather distant) at the observation tower at Akgöl, and especially at the new small observation tower on the northern edge of Akgöl.
In recent decades also observed at Ceyhan Delta, Akyatan Gölü and River Euphrates 10-15 km. south of Birezik, at latter site up to 10 in May 2007 (Green & Moorhouse 1994, Blomdahl 2007, P. van der Heide & Olof Jönsson per e-mail).

82. **Common Crane** *Grus grus* **Trane**
2005: 17.5 1 at nest in swamp area east of Ardahan - 18.5 1 at nest in large swamp near Igdir.
2006: 17.5 2 (pair with nest) Sivas – 17.5 1 Sivas-Kizildag Gecedi – 21.5 2 Ardahan.
2007: 17.5 3 (of which a pair with nest) Sivas – 17.5 2 Tödürge Gölü -20.5 1 Ardahan.
The Turkish population is 100 -300 pairs, mainly in the highlands of Central and E Anatolia.

83. **Great Bustard** *Otis tarda* **Stortrappe**
2007: 21.5 1 Bulanik north of river Murat, NW of Rustemgedik.
Local breeding bird in C and E Turkey, mainly between Mus and eastwards to the Iranian border. Turkish population 145-4000 pairs (Tucker & Heath 1994). The main area is the steppe and arable landscape at Bulanik, especially north of the River Murat. Here up to 155 birds gathers in spring (Soner Bekir pers. comm), and onto mid May flocks still occurs, e.g. 75 NW of Rustemgedik and 26 north of Yoncali in 2007 (Olof Jönsson in sms). In both Gosney (1992) and Green & Moorhouse (1995) the area is not well described and areas N of river Murat largely ignored.
The best areas are reached from northbound roads at Rustemgedik. Here, turn left in the middle og the village (when a red brick house is visible) and follow the road across river Murat. Here, scan the fields for bustards (and cranes – see Demoiselle Crane), then drive north for some km.´s to a unnamed village. Here, turn west at dirt road for 1-5 km. The road passes a hill on the left in the direction of River Murat. From the top of the hill, 75 bustards were seen in one morning in May 2007. Continue along the dirt road to several small unnamed villages and scan the fields. It is easy to keep the direction to the River Murat, either via compass or smiply note the large mountains in the background. Another very good areas for bustards are the agricultural land north of Yoncali ca. 10 km. west of Bulanik. Take roads leading north across the bridge at River Murat and search in the vicinity of the villages Adidar, Saripinar, Siradere and Sehittahir (Sober Bekir pers. comm).
Other areas are Tuz Gölü (e.g. small group observed by DOF Excursion 1970) and semi-desert around Ceylanpinar.

84. **Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostrelegus* **Strandskade**
2005: 16.5 3 between Erzinzan.and Mescan.
2006: 14.5 2 Göksu Delta.
2007: 21.5 3 Bulanik
In Turkey, very patchy distribution along rivers, but more widespread along rivers in the Pontic area (Cramp & Simmons 1983).

85. **Avocet** *Recurviristra avosetta* **Klyde**
2005: 13.5 4 Lake Akgöl, Göksu Delta - 19.5 7 Bendimari Marsh, Lake Van - 20.5 2 South Van Marshes - 24.5 8 Tuzla Gölü, Tarsus Delta.
2006: 14.5 1 Göksu Delta – 23.5 3 South Van Marshes, Van.

86. **Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus* **Stylteløber**
Scattered observations in suitable habitats, most in the southern deltas.
2005: Most 13.5 100 Akgöl, Göksu Delta - 19.5 15 Erzek Gölü..
2006: Most 14,5 30 Akgöl, Göksu Delta – 17.5 15 Sultan Sazligi – 22.5 20 Bendimahi Marshes, Van Gölü – 22-23.5 daily max. 60 South Van Marshes, Van.
2007: Most 14.5 80 Akgöl, Göksu Delta – 18.5 50 Erzinzan-Altunkent – 20.5 20 Saz Gölü – 26.5 6 Tuzla Gölü S of Adana.

87. **Red-winged Pratincole** *Glareola pratincola* **Braksvale**
2005: 13.5 12 Akgöl, Göksu Delta - 24.5 1 Tuzla Gölü, Tarsus Delta.
2006: 14.5 1 Göksu Delta – 17.5 2 Sivas.
2007: 16.5 12 Ovaciftlik, Sultan Sazligi – 21.5 2 Bulanik – 26.5 80 Tuzla Gölü S of Adana (incl. several pairs with youngs).
Turkish breeding population is 500-5000 pairs (Tucker & Heath 1994); Cramp & Simmons (983) mentions <1000 pairs. Prefers dry steppe or semi-desert (often *Artemisia*-steppe) with salt-lakes, inland marshes, permanent water and a good supply of insects. The main population found Central Anatolia (e.g 50 pairs Sultan Marshes), Göksu Delta (50 pairs) and Tuzla Gölü south of Adana (Magnin & Yarar 1997, own obs.).

88. **Black-winged Pratincole** *Glareola nordmanni* **Sortvinget Braksvale**
2007: 16.5 2 Ovaciftlik, Sultan Sazligi.
The birds appeared in a pair, associated with several pairs of Red-winged Pratincole at dry steppe between Ovaciftlik and the wetland to the north. Porter et al. (1997) mentions the species as breeding in Eastern Turkey, this was not repeted by Mullarney et al. 1999. However, the habitat here looks very much like the wet steppe areas, where I have seen colonies is Kasakhstan.
Scarce migrant, most in autumn, where max. is 230 Mogan Gölü, Sept. 1968.

89. **Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola* **Strandhjejle**
2005: 24.5 4 adult Tuzla Gölü, Tarsus Delta.

90. **Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius* **Lille Præstekrave**
2005: 19-20.5 12 South Van Marshes (mainly at Gosney site 1, where several breeding pairs present).
2005: 14.5 5 Göksu Delta – 22.5 1 South Van Marshes – 23.5 6 South Van Marshes – 25.5 1 Birezik.

2007: 14.5 3 Akgöl, Göksu Delta – 16.5 1 Ovaciftlik – 17.5 2 Sivas-Kicilham Gecedi – 22.5 2 Baykan-Batman.

91. **Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula tundrae* **Stor Præstekrave**
2005: 20.5 4 ad. South Van Marshes - 22.5 2 River Euphrates south of Birezik.
2006: 14.5 2 Göksu Delta – 22.5 4 South Van Marshes -23.5 2 South Van Marshes.
2007: 21.5 2 ad. Caldiran Marshes.
In all cases small and dark birds with very bright reddish orange base to bill (and restricted compared to *hiaticula*) characters of the Arctic breeding taxon *tundrius*. Do not breed in Turkey.

92. **Kentish Plover** *Charadrius alexandrinus* **Hvidbrystet Præstekrave**
2005: 15.5 25 Sultan Sazligi - 24,5 800 Tuzla Gölü S of Adana.
2006: 14.5 40 Göksu Delta.
2007: 14.5 35 Akgöl, Göksu Delta (incl. Pair with 3 pullus) – 14.5 15 Paradeniz Point, Göksu Delta – 16.5 3 Sultan Sazligi – 16.5 5 Ovaciftlik – 26.5 100 Tuzla Gölü S of Adana.
The Turkish breeding population is between 5000 and 15.000 pairs, of which alone over 1000 in the Tarsus Delta Area. The main breeding population is found along south coast and in Central Anatolia. Breeds in sandy beaches with barely any vegetation, and on salt marshes near permanent water.

93. **Greater Sand Plover** *Charadrius leschenaultii columbinus* **Ørkenpræstekrave**
2007: 17.5 4 Cöl Gölu.
A small breeding population is found at salt steppes and along shores of steppe lakes in Central Anatolia. Often seen feeding in dry fields, or in low vegetation of herbs along dried out lakes.
In Sultan Sazligi area, most often observed Cöl Gölu (where 10-15 pairs breeds in certain years, but fewer when most of the lake is dried out (Soner Bekir pers.comm.). We found the birds along the eastern side of the partly dried out lake. Direction: from the Nigde-Kayseri main road, turn towards Develi. After 3.2 km. you pass a canal (Canal 2); dirt tracks leading to the lake looked promising, but 4 wheel drive necessary. Drive further 1 km to a village ("Seyhyabaus"?), then turn N at road leading to another village. Drive for further 1-1.5 km. then scan the lake from a gravel area with a hill opposite. We found 2 pairs in the low vegetation just before the arid dried out lake.
More irregular at "site 8" in Gosney (1991). Kristensen (1999) managed to see several here, but a five hours search in 2005 (Malling Olsen 2005) remained fruitless. Also breeds Tuz Gölu. Regular on migration at Tarsus and Göksu Deltas (max. 38), and Van Gölu.

94. **Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres* **Stenvender**
2005: 24.5 1 ad. summer plumage Tuzla Gölü.
2006: 14.5 5 Göksu Delta.
2007: 21.5 1 ad. Caldiran Marshes.

95. **Northern Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus* **Vibe**
Widespread, locally common in wetlands, especially in the far East.
2005: Most 8.5 20 Igdir - 19.5 10 Erzek Gölü -19-20.5 daily max. 30 South van Marshes.
2006: Most 17.5 10 Sivas – 22.5 8 Dogubayazit – 22-23.5 daily max. 30 South Van Marshes (including several pairs with pulli).
2007: Most 16.5 12 Ovaciftlik/Sultan Sazligi – 18.5 20 Erzinzan-Altunkent -19.5 80 Ardahan – 20.5 100 Saz Gölü – 21.5 30 Caldiran Marshes – 21.5 35 Bulanik.

96. **Spur-winged Plover** *Vanellus spinosus* **Sporevibe**
2005: 13.5 6 Lake Akgöl, Göksu Delta and 12 middle of Göksu Delta - 23.5 20 Göksü Delta - 24.5 5 Tuzla Gölü.
2006: 14.5 25 Göksu Delta – 25.5 2 (pair near nest) Birezik.
2007: 14.5 20 Akgöl, Göksu Delta (several breeding pairs) – 21.5 2 Bulanik – 222.5 6 River Tigris north of Batman – 26.5 4 Tuzla Gölü S of Adana.
1000-5000 pairs breeds in Turkey, mainly Aegaen and Marmara regions, along the south coast and in central Anatolia. In 2006, pair in breeding conditions at Birezik, as noted above; also in 2006 6 notes Bulanik at the eastern edge of the range (Pettersson 2006). Found in wetlands intermixed with drier areas such as salt marshes along canals and lagoons. It seems not to especially attacked at man-made wetlands versus the situation in Africa (Tucker & Heath 1994).

97. **Red-wattled Plover** *Hoplopterus indicus* **Indisk Vibe**
2007: 22.5 1 lake W of Idil.
Breeds extreme SE of Turkey, along River Tigris near Cizre (see directions in Green & Moorhouse 1995). Population there 5-10 pairs, but further population is found along River Tigris. E.g. 3 observed on stony island in River Tigris from Kurtulus between Cizre and Sirnak in May 2007 (Olof Jönsson in sms).
Recently found in lakes further to the west, such as Idil and Oyali. On latter site, 3 observed 21.5 and 1 early June 2007; however local sportsman attained to shoot the latter! (Christian Leth & Hans Rudne in sms). The Oyala site is a few km. to the south of the village, on the western side of the road. The lake near Idil is easily overlooked from the Cizre-Marsin highway. In Cizre rather easily observed, but observers may be shown away by police and military, as Cizre is the border town to Iraq. Birders trying to drive Tatvan-Cizre by the shortest road via Siirt and Sirnak have difficulties in 2007 with much and very time-consumpting road checks; the road Tatvan-Batman and eastwards was without any problems.
Also observed between Cizre and Nusaybin, Kuruduse and Ceylanpinar (just N of town: at illtop turn E towards Kiziltepe until a bridge crosses the river) (Balmer & Betton 2001, Highie 2006, Olsen & Jönsson 2006, Rudne 2007).

98. **Dunlin** *Calidris alpina* **Almindelig Ryle**
2007: 25.5 1 River Euphrates S of Birezik.

99. **Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea* **Krumnæbbet Ryle**
2005: 20.5 18 adults in summer plumage South Van Marshes.
2006: 14.5 82 Göksu Delta – 17.5 1 summer plumage Sivas – 23.5 3 South Van Marshes.
2007: 14.5 4 adult in summer plumage Paradeniz Point, Göksu Delta.

100. **Little Stint** *Calidris minutus* **Dværgryle**
2005: 15.5 21 Sultan Marshes - 20.5 275 South Van Marshes (>90% summer plumaged, just a few with scattered winter feathers). - 20.5 1 Diyarbakir.
2006: 14.5 550 Göksu Delta – 17.5 50 Sivas – 22.5 45 South Van Marshes – 23.5 40 South Van Marshes – 23.5 1 Van-Tatvan.
2007: 14.5 80 Paradeniz Point, Göksu Delta – 21.5 1 Caldiran Marshes.

101. **Temminck´s Stint** *Calidris temminckii* **Temmincksryle**
2006: 22.5 2 ad. South Van Marshes, Van.

102. **Broad-billed Sandpiper** *Limicola falcinellis* **Kærløber**
2007: 26.5 2 Tuzla Gölü S of Adana.
Scarce migrant, with up to 100 seen in May in south coast deltas, and central and eastern lakes, incl. Van Gölü.

103. **Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola* **Tinksmed**
2005: 13.5 3 Göksu Delta. - 19.5 10 South Van Marshes - 20.5 75 South Van Marshes.
2006: 4 ad. Göksu Delta – 17.5 3 Sivas – 21.5 2 Ardahan-Kars – 22.5 15 South Van Marshes – 23.5 2 South Van Marshes.
2007: 14.5 60 Akgöl, Göksu Delta – 16.5 7 Sultan Sazligi – 21.5 4 Caldiran Marshes – 22.5 1 Idil.

104. **Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochrorus* **Svaleklire**
2005: 13.5 1 Lake Akgöl, Göksu Delta.- 16.5 2 Baskarschmag.
2007: 14.5 1 Paradeniz Point, Göksu Delta – 16.5 2 Sultan Sazligi – 18.5 1 Sivri Kaya – 21.5 1 Aydinlar.

105. **Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucus* **Mudderklire**
2005: 15.5 2 Sultan Marshes - 15.5 1 Sivas.
2006: 17.5 1 Karhan – 18.5 1 Ispir-Ovitdagi Gecedi – 20.5 1 Artvin.
2007: 17.5 3 Sivas-Kizilham Gecedi – 18.5 1 Maden Köprubasi-Ovitdagi Gecedi.

106. **Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia* **Hvidklire**
2005: 19.5 1 Erzek Gölü - 20.5 3 South Van Marshes - 24.5 2 Tuzla Creek.
2006: 17.5 1 Sivas.

107. **Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis* **Damklire**
2005: 17.5 2 Ardahan - 19.5 2 Erzek Gölü - 24.5 1 Tuzla Gölü, Tarsus Delta.

108. **Common Redshank** *Tringa totanus* **Rødben**
Rather common in wetlands, but avoiding the hot areas in the south.
2005: Most 20.5 100 south Van Marshes, with 10-50 regular at other sites, e.g. Ardahan, Igdir and Erzek Gölü.
2006: Most 14.5 6 Göksu Delta – 21.5 3 Kars – 22-23.5 daily max. 30 South Van Marshes.
2007: Most 14.5 4 Akgöl, Göksu Delta – 16.5 4 Sultan Sazligi – 17.5 5 Erzinzan-Altunkent – 19.5 30 Ardahan – 20.5 40 Saz Gölü – 21.5 40 Caldiran Marshes – 21.5 10 Aydinlar – 21.5 40 Bulanik.

109. **Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus* **Sortklire**
2007: 16.5 1 ad. Sultan Sazligi.

110. **Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa* **Stor Kobbersneppe**
2005: 17.5 15 Ardahan. - 18.5 1 Caldiran.
2007: 17.5 1 Sivas.

111. **Eurasian Curlew** *Numenius arquata* **Storspove**
2006: 14.5 1 Göksu Delta.

112. **Common Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago* **Dobbeltbekkasin**
2005: 19.5 1 South Van Marshes,Van Gölü - 24.5 1 Tuzla Creek.

2006: 23.5 1 South Van Marshes, Van Gölü.
Late wintering birds, as the species do not breed in Turkey.

113. **Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax* **Brushane**
2005: 19.5 1 male South Van Marshes - 20.5 14 females in a group floded field near Diyarbakir - 21.5 18 migrating N Euphrates south of Birezik - 24.5 1 2 cal. Year Tuzla Gölü, Tarsus Delta..
2006: 14.5 40 Göksu Delta – 17.5 40 Sivas.
2007: 14.5 3 Akgöl, Göksu Delta – 16.5 1 male+6 females Sultan Sazligi – 21.5 1 male Caldiran Marshes.

114. **Red-necked Phalarope** *Phalaropus lobatus* **Odinshane**
2005: 20.5 56 in summer plumage in a dense flock South Van Marshes.
Im May, up to 5-900 has been noted at Van Gölü and on 6.5 2004, 226 Gölduzu Gölü.

115. **Little Gull** *Larus minutus* **Dværgmåge**
2007: 14.5 1 ad. Akgöl, Göksu Delta.

116. **Black-headed Gull** *Larus ridibundus* **Hættemåge**
2005: 18.5 50 at colony wetland near Kars. - 18.5 1 Serpmetas - 19.5 50 Erzek Gölü - 19.5 50 South van Marshes. - 20.5 18 migrating N (2 adult, 16 2 cal. Year) and 2 ad.+55 2 cal. Years resting South Van Marshes. - 24.5 20 Tuzla Gölü, Tarsus Delta.
2006: 14.5 5 Istanbul – 14.5 2 2 ca. Year Göksu Delta – 21.5 400 adults Kars (breeding colony).
2007: 16.5 2 ad. Sultan Sazligi – 18.5 1 Erzinzan-Altunkent – 20.5 300 Kars (breeding colony) - 22.5 2 Idil – 25.5 20 migrating N Birezik.

117. **Slender-billed Gull** *Larus genei* **Tyndnæbbet Måge**
2005: 19.5 2 ad. Erzek Gölü - 19.5 2 2 cal. year South Van Marshes - 20.5 2 ad.+2 2.cal year migrating N + 1 ad. resting South Van Marshes. - 24.5 15 Tuzla Gölü, Tarsus Delta.
2006: 14.5 55 Goksu Delta.
2007: 17.5 2 ad. Tödürge Gölü – 26.5 20 Tuzla Gölü S of Adana.
Some thousand pairs breeds in Turkey, mainly in Central Anatolia; probably decreasing.

118. **Mediterranean Gull** *Larus melanocephalus* **Sorthovedet Måge**
2005: 15.5 1 ad. summer plumage small lake between Sivas and Bezirkas.
2006: 14.5 6 (1 ad. + 2 3 cal. Year + 3 2 cal. Year) Paradeniz Gölü, Göksu Delta.
2007: 17.5 1 2nd cal. year Tödürge Golü.
500-1500 pairs breeds in Turkey, mainly in Central Anatolia at Seyfe Gölü (500 pairs) and Kulu Gölü (400 pairs) (Magnin & Yarar 1997).

119. **Audouin´s Gull** *Larus audouinii* **Audouinsmåge**
2006: 8 (1 3 cal.year + 7 2 cal. Year) Paradeniz Gölü, Göksu Delta.
Mainly a winter visitor to the coastline between Tarsus and Göksu Deltas. A small population of about 100 pairs breeds in Turkey.

120. **Yellow-legged Gull** *Larus michahellis* **Middelhavssølvmåge**
2005: Common along Mediterranean coastline, with gatherings up to 50 Göksu and Tarsus Delta; all ages respresented here. Common NE Black Sea coast, with hundreds Deberapazi – Hoba; most

700 Rize and 350 Arhavi. Inland noted 16.5 12 Baskarschmag along rivers as well as 17.5 25 Hopa - Savsat (20 at Artvin).
2006: Common Istanbul, e.g. 200 14.5. - 14.5 100 Göksu Delta. Common along Black Sea coast, most 20.5 200 Rize. 20.5 60 Artvin.
2007: 14.5 3 Erdemli-Mezbahane – 14.5 50 Akgöl, Göksu Delta – 14.5 5 Paradeniz Point, Göksu Delta – 18.5 200 Rize – 19.5 150 Rize – 19.5 150 Rize-Hopa – 19.5 40 Hopa – 19.5 1 ad. Borcka-Artvin – 25.5 2 2nd cal year River Euphrates S of Birezik – 26.5 20 Tuzla Gölu S of Adana. Away from the area: 27.5 100 Istanbul.
NE-Turkey: among checked adult gulls, all showed characters of Yellow-legged (broad black wing-tip with restricted white/ strong yellow legs /heavy, bulbous-shaped bill and pale eyes) (Malling Olsen & Larsson 2005); situation more problematic in immatures, but most Yellow-legged observed; ID based on "herring-gull jizz" black and heavy bill, traces of black mask, rather dark underwings (contrasting well to whitish belly) and stronger, more Herring-gull like pattern in greater coverts than the watered of Caspian. However, coverts pattern often worn off by spring.
Breeding range in Turkey scattered, mainly confined to Aegean and Marmara Seas and the northwest Black Sea Coast, and again along NE Black Sea Coastline, with some colonies probably inland along large rivers (e.g. near Artvin).

121. **Caspian Gull** *Larus cachinnans cachinnans* **Kaspisk Måge**
2005: 18.5 noted in the gatherings of Yellow-legged Gulls along Black Sea Coast between Derepazari and Hoba. Numbers much lower than in Yellow-legged, and solely including immatures (mainly 2 cal. Years). At most 20 (among 700 Yellow-legged) at Rize and 35 (among 350 Yellow-leggeds) Arhavi.
2006: 19.5 1 ad. Deberapazi – 20.5 3 2K Ardesen – 20.5 2 ad. + 2 2nd cal years 13 km north of Borcka – 20.5 3 Artvin.
2007: 19.5 1 2nd cal. year Rize.
ID based on jizz, pale base to slender bill, characteristic shape with smallish head, curious long legs, "push-up bh" breast and "street-wear hanging belly" as well as almost complete white underwings in many (for a fuller treatment, see Malling Olsen & Larsson 2005).

122. **Armenian Gull** *Larus armenicus* **Armensk Måge**
2005: Locally abundant, noted mainly in 3 areas:
Area 1: Started to appear Ardahan (45, of which 15 adult and 30 immatures), with 500, mainly adult, eventually noted 17.5 near Aktas Gölu (and closer to Cildir). The numbers indicated at breeding population on several hundreds pairs here, previously barely noted in the litterature.
An isolated observation was 3 birds 18.5 at Halikisla.
Area 2: 18.5 also saw 90 at marshes of Caldiran, mainly adults, and probably local breeders from barely known breeding grounds. In this area, also 5 were observed at Serpmetas, and on 19.5 300 were noted at Caldiran., mainly feeding on a local garbage dump.
Area 3 The entire Van area presented hundreds.At Erzek Gölü, 150 were counted. In the Van Area e.g. 100 was counted Bendimari Marshes, 500 at the garbage dump near Van Hills, 125 South Van Marshes on 19.5 and 250 on 20.5 - 20.5 250 near Sevas (mainly at garbage dump) - 20.5 75 near Tatvan and the last 20.5 - a flying bird near Bitlis.
2006: 20.5 2 ad. Ardahan – 21.5 1 ad. Ardahan – 21.5 4 ad. Ardahan –Kars – 22.5 150 Dogubayazit. Abundant in Van Gölü area, most 22.5 1.200 Balikli - 22.5 650 Bendimani Marshes – 22.5 1.000 Van – 22-23.5 daily max. 250 South Van Marshes – 23.5 300 Tatvan.

2007: 19-20.5 daily max. 80 Ardahan – 20.5 10 Ardahan-Kars – 21.5 100 Caldiran Marshes – 21.5 400 Muradiya between Caldiran and Bendimahi – 21.5 85 Erzis-Aydinlar – 21.5 6 Bulanik – 22.5 1 ad. Tatvan-Baykan – 22.5 15 imm. River Tigris north of Batman.

The Turkish population at least 2500 pairs (of which 2000 Lake Van and 500 Tuz Gölü) (Malling Olsen & Larsson 2004), Plentiful everywhere around Lake Van, but in 2005 also surprising common in the NE in 2005 with hundreds - mainly adults - at Cildir and Aktas Gölüs and 100 near Caldiran near Iranian border on 20.5. This indicated further breeding sites and population increase in the NE compared to recent knowledge.

Interbreeding with Yellow-legged gull has been noted at Beysehir Gölü, SW Turkey (Liebers & Helbig 1999).

Often appears slightly lighter than Yellow-legged, with shape sometimes similar to Lesser Black-backed Gull *L. fuscus*. Adult identifyed from Yellow-legged on combination of darker grey upperparts, more solid black wing-tip with smaller white spot in p10 and generally darker eyes (often looking blackish at distance). Most show extensive black markings near bill-tip (absent in fully adult breeding Yellow-legged) (Malling Olsen & Larsson 2004).

123. **Baltic (Lesser black-backed) Gull** *Larus (fuscus) fuscus* (**Baltisk**) **Sildemåge**
2007: 26.55 2nd cal. year Tuzla Gölü S of Adana.

124. **Heuglin´s Gull** *Larus heuglini* **Sibirisk Måge**
2005: 18.5 1 ad. + 1 2 cal. year Rize – 18.5 1 ad. near Arhavi, Black Sea Coast.
2006: 20.5 1 ad. Rize – 22.5 2 ad. Dogubayazit.
All birds large and rather herring-gull like in jizz and size, and both with pale upperparts matching Lesser Black-backed Gull *intermedius/graellsii*; the local occuring Lesser Black-backed Gull is the very black and slender *fuscus* (Malling Olsen & Larsson 2004). The 2 cal.year bird have completed almost halt of the flight feather moult, and basically (as expected for both *fuscus* and *heuglini*) looking "one year older" than *graellsii/intermedius* would do, caused by more advanced moult.

125. **Little Tern** *Sterna albifrons* **Dværgterne**
2005: 13.5 20 Akgöl Lake, Göksu - 19.5 4 South Van Marshes - 24.5 35 Tuzla Gölü - 24.5 20 Tuzla Creek - 24.5 2 Tarsus.
2006: 14.5 10 Göksu Delta.
2007: 14.5 10 Akgöl, Göksu Delta – 21.5 3 Aydinlar -22.5 10 River Tigris north of Batman – 22.5 2 Idil – 26.5 15 Tuzla Gölü S of Adana.

5.000-15.000 pairs bred Turkey.

126. **Gull-billed Tern** *Gelochelidon nilotica* **Sandterne**
2005: 17.5 1 ad. Ardahan. - 18.5 1 ad. Serpmetas.
2006: 23.5 2 ad. Tatvan, Van Gölü.
2007: 14.5 2 ad. Akgöl, Göksu Delta – 21.5 150 Bulanik – 25.5 3 ad. River Euphrates S of Birezik – 25.5 3 ad. Halfeti.

2000-7000 pairs breeds Turkey. Most seen June 2006, a colony of 350+ pairs noted Bulanik (Pettersson 2006), and June 2005 max. 200 Kulu Gölü (Gerdin et al. 2005, Pettersson 2006).

127. **Caspian Tern** *Sterna caspia* **Rovterne**
2005: 24.5 2 2.cal. year Tuzla Gölü S of Adana.
2007: 26.5 2 Tuzla Gölü S of Adana.

50-200 pairs breeds in Turkey (Tucker & Heath 1994).

128. **Sandwish Tern** *Sterna sandvicensis* **Splitterne**
2005: 24,5 5 2 cal. year Tuzla Gölü S of Adana.
2007: 26.5 10 Tuzla Gölü S of Adana.

129. **Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo* **Fjordterne**
2005: 16.5 1 Erzinzan - 16.5 2 Baskarschmag - 18.5 2 Halikista - 24.5 2 Tuzla Creek
2006: 14.5 15 Göksu Delta – 17.5 20 Sultan Sazligi – 18.5 2 Erzinzan-Mercan – 18.5 1 Mercan-Askale – 24.5 2 Kahta-Atatürk Baraji.
2007: 14.5 11 ad. Akgöl, Göksu Delta – 18.5 1 Erzinzan-Altunkent – 22.5 3 ad. Baykan-Batman – 25.5 10 ad. Halfeti.

130. **Whiskered Tern** *Chlidonias hybridus* **Hvidskægget Terne**
2005: 13.5 6 ad. Akgöl , Göksu Delta - 15.5 8 ad. near Nidge - 15.5 25 ad. Sultan Sazligi - 17.5 110 ad. Ardahan - 21.5 8 ad. River Euphrates S of Birezik.
2006: 14.5 5 ad. Göksu Delta – 23.5 2 ad. South Van Marshes, Van – 25.5 3 ad. Birezik.
2007: 14.5 45 ad. + 2 2 cal. years Akgöl, Göksu Delta.
Around 1000 pairs breeds in Turkey, mainly in central Anatolian wetlands; at Sultan Sazligi 400 pairs breeds (Magnin & Yarar 1997).

131. **White-winged Black Tern** *Chlidonias leucopterus* **Hvidvinget Terne**
2005: 16.5 3 ad. Erzinzan - 17.5 175 Ardahan - 17.5 2 Ardahan-Cildir - 17.5 200 Cildir Gölü - 18.5 275 Kars - 18.5 1 near Kars - 18.5 30 Igdir - 18.5 13 Caldiran - 19.5 80 Caldiran - 19.5 4 Bendimari Marshes, Van Gölü - 19.5 47 Erzek Gölü - 19.5 20 ad. South Van Marshes- 20.5 135 adult + 3 3 cal. Years + 5 2 cal. Years South Van Marshes - 21.5 35 ad. + 1 3. cal. Year + 3 2 cal. Year Eufrat south of Birezik - 24.5 5 ad. Tuzla Creek.
2006: 14.5 1 ad. Akgöl, Göksu Delta – 21.5 1 ad. Ardahan – 22.5 65 Dogubayazit – 22.5 5 ad. Bendimahi Marshes, Van Gölü.
2007: 14.5 4 ad. Akgöl, Göksu Delta – 17.5 25 ad. Tödürge Gölü – 18.5 1 ad. Erzinzan-Altunkent – 20.5 230 ad. Saz Gölü – 21.5 150 (adults apart from 2 2nd. Cal years) Caldiran Marshes – 21.5 5 ad. Aydinlar-Patnos – 21.58 ad. Bulanik.
Does not breed in Turkey, but well known for its massive migration between African winter quarters and breeding sites in East Europe and Central Asia. The migration peaks in May, e.g. 6.5 2004 11.500 at Gölduzu Gölü. At Eilat, Israel, there are reports on 20.000 passing Eilat in a few hour´s in a single day early in May.
What we witnessed in 2005 was a rather massive migration of this most impressive tern - but by no way exceptional. Anyway, among the aestecical highlights of May birding! Much fewer in 2006, mainly in the far East.

132. **Black-bellied Sandgrouse** *Pterocles orientalis* **Sortbuget Sandhøne**
2007: 25.5 6 flying Isik Restautant Wadi, Birezik (0745).
Said to be widespread across eastern 2/3 of Turkey, but observed rather random, e.g. at Bulanik, Erzek gölu and sultan Sazligi (Niemi 2000, Olof Jönsson per sms). Formerly >500 came to drink Birezik (see Pin-tailed Sandgrouse).

133. **Rock Pigeon** *Columba livia* **Klippedue**
2005: 14.5 15 Demirkazik - 19.5 15 Van Hills; feral pigeons, in a babylonic mixture of plumages, present in all larger cities excluded.

2006: 16.5 5 Cimbar Bogazi, Demirkazik. See otherwise 2005.
2007: Lot of domestic birds.

134. **Wood Pigeon** *Columba palumbus* **Ringdue**
2005: Scarce, most 21.5 4 Birezik.
2006: Scarce, most 18.5 4 Erzinzan-Mercan – 22.5 4 Dogubayazit.
2007: 17.5 2 Sarkisla-Sivas – 17.5 2 Sivas – 17.5 2 Tödürge Gölü – 24.5 1 Birezik – 25.5 3 River euphrates S of Birezik – 25.5 1 Café Gülhane, Birezik.

135. **Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocta* **Tyrkerdue**
Common throughout, but scarcer in the N and E.
2005. Most 24.5 150 Tarsus Delta West.
2006: Most 15.5 30 Karaman-Eregli – 24.5 20 Atatürk Baraji-Sanli Urfa – 24-26.5 daily max. 50 Birezik.
2007: Most 14.5 50 Göksu Delta – 15.5 25 Göksu Delta – 22.5 30 Midyat-Oyali – 22.5 40 Oyali – – 24.5 30 gravel Pits, Birezik –26.5 40 Adana – 26.5 35 Havultu – 26.5 30 Havutlu-Tuzla Gölü.

136. **Turtle Dove** *Sterptopelia turtur* **Turteldue**
2005: Only in the S: 21.5 2 "Ibis Wadi", Birezik - 23.5 6 Demircili - 23.5 2 Imamli - 23.5 1 Aphroditias - 24.5 6 Tarsus Delta west.
2006: 14.5 3 Göksu Delta – 15.5 6 Demircili - 15.5 2 Imamli – 17.5 20 Sivas-Kizildag Gecedi – 18.5 2 Erzinzan-Mercan – 19.5 2 Kalkandere – 22.5 5 Dogubayazit – 23.5 1 Diyarbakir-Siverik – 24.5 3 Atatürk Barasi – 24.5 10 Atatürk Barasi-Sanli Urfa – 25.5 3 Birezik.
2007: 14.5 3 Mersin-Erdemli – 15.5 4 Demirzili -15.5 2 Imamli – 17.5 3 Tuzla Gölü – 22.5 2 Sucete, Raman Dagi – 23.5 3 Buzak – 23.5 1 Buzak-Narince – 24.5 6 Atatürk Baraji – 24.58 Sanliavsar – 24.5 10 Damlica – 25.5 1 Ibis Wadi, Birezik.
Widespread in Turkey, but the lack of records in 2005 from other than the southern part of our route might indicate, that the migration not had come to an end; most breeding sites are occupied rather late, by May (Cramp & Simmons 1985).

137. **Laughing Dove** *Sterptopelia senegalensis* **Palmedue**
2005: 13.5 3 Adana - 15.5 1 near Dorigal - 20.5 1 near Gaziantep - 22,5 1 Adana. – 24.5 1 Tarsus-Adana.
2006: 14.5 2 Adana–Silifke – 23.5 10 Siverik – 24.5 5 Siverik – 24.5 2 Kahta – 25.5 3 Birezik – 26.5 1 Adana.
2007: 14.5 4 Adana – 14.5 12 Adana-Mersin – 15.5 1 Silifke – 23.5 3 Diyarbakir – 23.5 5 Siverik - 24.5 3 Adiyaman – 25.5 1 Birezik plantations – 25.5 2 Birezik-Halfeti - 26.5 20 Adana.
Have a patchy distribution in Turkey, being present in the Istanbul area, but lacking until between Göksu and Birezik, north to Nemrud Dagi and eastwards to at least Diyarbakir. Often found in cities and city parks alongside Collared Dove. Expanding range slightly with recent observation in the north at Samsun.

138. **Common Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus* **Gøg**
Scattered observervations througout.
2005: Most 14.5 6 Kalki Dag - 15.5 3 Sultan Saglizi - 18-19.5 3-5 Ishak Pasa.
2006: Most18.5 2 Ispir-Ovitdagi Gecedi – 22.5 3 Ishak Pasa.
2007: Most 17.5 3 Sarkisla-Sivas – 21.5 2 Sogoksu.

139. **Great Crested Cuckoo** *Clamator glandarius* **Skadegøg**
2007: 16.5 1 ad. Ovaciftlik, Sultan Sazligi.
Confined to western haft of Turkey, but regular in central Anatolia.

140. **Long-eared Owl** *Asio otus* **Skovhornugle**
2005: At the "owl café" in Birezik a juvenile heard on the evening of 20.5, and an adult with a juvenile seen 21.5.
2006: 24.5 1 adult the “owl cafe”, Birezik.
2007: 25.5 2 pull. Isik Restaurant, Birezik.

141. **Barn Owl** *Tyto alba* **Slørugle**
2007: 22.5 1 Mardin.
Scarce and local breeder in Turkey.

142. **Little Owl** *Athene noctua* **Kirkeugle**
Two taxa noted:
2005: Ssp. *Indigena*: 20.5 2 Van Castle and 1 South Van Marshes (unidentifyed to taxon, but does not look as pale as *lilith* noted earlier) - 20.5 2 near Sanli Urfa - 21.5 1 River Euphrates south of Birezik - 23.5 1 Demircili.
Ssp. *Lilith* - the paler desert breeding form: 18.5 1 Igdir - 19.5 1 Erzek Gölü.
2006: Ssp. *Indigena*: 15.5 1 Imamli – 15.5 1 Imamli-Mut – 15.5 2 Adadag near Eregli – 15.5 1 Demirkazik village – 16.5 1 Cucurbak – 23.5 1 South Van Marshes – 23.5 1 Kozluk.
Ssp. *Lilith*: 25-26.5 1 “Ibis Wadi”, Birezik.
2007: ssp. *indigena*: 14.5 2 Akgöl, Göksu Delta – 15.5 2 Demirzili – 16.5 2 Sultan Sazligi – 16.5 1 Ovaciftlik – 16.5 3 Sultan Pansion, Ovaciftlik – 23.5 1 Diyarbakir-Siverik.
Ssp. *lilith*: 20.5 2 Gülizar.
Indigena (most of Turkey apart from arid areas SE) russet-brown with rather narrow pale spots above and rather dense greyish-brown streaks in underparts. Similar to European birds.
Lilith (SE Turkey, mainly arid areas, but seemingly occurs alongside *indegena* in Van Area) paler and often more greyish-brown with rather broad whitish spots above; streak in underparts finer and paler brown than in *indigena*. The observation of 2 (pair) at Gülicar in the lava-fields in app. 2.500 meters of altitude was unexpected and well off the range of this pale desert form.

143. **Scops Owl** *Otus scops* **Dværghornugle**
2005: 20.5 1 heard in the evening at the "owl café", Birezik.
2006: 14.5 1 Silifke – 15.5 1 Demircili – 15.5 1 Demirkazik village – 16.5 1 Kalki Dag – 24.5 1 Birezik.
2007: 15.5 2 Cucurbak -16.5 1 Cucurbak – 16.5 1 Cimbar Bogazi, Demirkazik – 23.5 1 Hotel Euphrates, Karadut.
Call a repeted ”kyup”, wide-anging and repeted each 2-3 second.
Greyish brown with blackish streaks and white spotting in crown and hindneck. Underbody with blackish streaks, showing slight transverse barring. Has conspicious whitish spots in scapulars. Wing-tip often penetrates beyond barred tail; often with transverse barring. Feathers in tarsus do not reach toes.
Ssp. *cycladum* (most of Turkey to at least Adana region) rather typical; described above.
Ssp. *turanicus* (probably SE Turkey) paler than *cycladum*, especially in the finer streaked underparts; thus more similar to Bruce´s Scops Owl, but with conspicious white spots in scapulars.

144. **Bruce´s Scops Owl** *Otus bruce exiguus* **Stribet Dværghornugle**
2005: 21.5 1 adult the "owl café", Birezik.
2006: 24.5 1 Birezik (near the fire station in the evening).
2007: 24.5 and 25.5 2 Café Gülhane, Birezik (the owl cafe).
The 2005 bird posed freely from the trees just above the blue foountain near the main building. The bird was never heard, but apart from wings penetrating slightly above the tail in certain positions, all plumage characters observed and documented by several, most satisfied teams. In 2006, no birds were present at the cafe area, but several observations done ca 5-800 m. further to the south along the road along the river edge – in the vicinity of two, fenced football grounds and at the fire station. In 2007, two lively birds were present at the 2005 site.
Sometimes reported from other areas in the Birezik region, including Halfeti. Overlaps in breeding areas in SE Turkey, e.g. at Birezik, where claimed hybridization, but no real proofs.
Call would in most cases be the safest character if the bird not is seen very well: a loud and quick series of diluted "wooh wooh wooh" - repeated once a second, thus quicker than the much more far-crying and slower series from Scops Owl; typically only heard at close range.
When seen well, a paler and sandier bird than Scop´s Owl (looking like a real desert species), with narrow streaks in crown and underbody, sandy sides to neck and buff line of spots in scapulars. Wing generally shorter than in Scop´s Owl, often not reaching tip to pale, poorly barred tail. Wing-tip with narrow dark streaks. Feathers of tarsus do reach toes.

145. **Alpine Swift** *Apus melba* **Alpesejler**
2005: 13.5 6 Silifke - 14.5 10 Demirkazik, at lower part of the gorge - 17.5 2 migrating Hopa - 19.5 6 South Van Marshes - 23.5 2 Imamli - 24.5 1 Tarsus.
2006: 14.5 50 Istanbul – 14.5 3 Adana-Silifke – 16.5 4 Cirmar Bogazi, Demirkazik – 16.5 5 Cucurbak – 16.5 100 Kalki Dag – 17.5 4 Nigde – 19.5 1 migrating Kalkandere – 21-22.5 daily max. 30 Ishak Pasa – 23.5 20 Van Castle, Van – 24-26.5 daily max. 40 Birezik – 26.5 2 Adana.
2007: 14.5 2 Adana-Mersin – 14.5 7 Mersin-Erdemli – 15.5 75 Silifke – 15.5 3 Demirzili – 15.5 4 Imamli – 15.5 15 Pozanti-Demirkazik – 15.5 50 Demirkazik – 16.5 2 Cimbar Bogazi, Demirkazik – 18.5 30 Maden Köprubasi – 20.5 100 Ishak Pasa – 22.5 10 Hasankeyf – 25.5 45 clifs N of Birezik, along River Euphrates.

146. **Pallid Swift** A*pus pallidus* **Gråsejler**
2005: 13.5 2 Silifke.
2006: 14.5 10 Adana-Silifke.
2007: 14.5 5 Tömük between Mersin and Erdemli.
The southeast corner of the Mediterranean region is the best area for this otherwise rather difficult species in Turkey.

147. **Common Swift** *Apus apus* **Mursejler**
2005: Seen throughout, but rather scarce in the first part of the tour. 17.5 25 migrating Hopa was the first larger numbers, followed by 20.5 130 South Van Marshes - 20.5 100 near Birezik - 22.5 100 Adana - 25.5 80 Adana Airport.
2006: Rather common, most 14.5 500 Adana-Silifke – 15.5 500 Karaman-Eregli – 16.5 400 Kalki Dag – 16.5 100 Kalki Dag-Nigde – 21-22.5 daily max. 150 Ishak Pasa – 22.5 100 Dogubayazit – 23.5 200 Van – 23.5 150 South Van Marshes – 24-26.5 daily max. 200 Birezik.
2007: Most 15.5 100 Mersin-Pozanti – 16.5 150 Yesilhisar – 19.5 100 Ardahan -20.5 200 Kars – 20.5 400 Saz Gölü – 20.5 150 Dogubayazit – 20.5 450 Ishak Pasa – 22.5 200 Tatvan- 22.5 1.000

Bitlis – 22.5 120 Sucete, Raman Dagi – 22.5 100 Hasankeyf – 23.5 2500 Mardin – 23.5 100 Buzak – 23.5 350 Buzak-Narince – 25.5 1500 cliffs N of Birezik, along river Euphrates.
The form *pekingensis* occurs in Eastern Turkey, judged from photoes, probably grading into nominate *apus*. Pekingensis have slightly paler pinge to upper wing-coverts and ofter broader pale scaling in underbody, thus resempling Pallid Swift. All birds shows the typical blackish-brown body of Common Swift, however.

148. **Little Swift** *Apus affinis* **Lille Sejler**
2005: 21.5 4 Birezik, about l km. north of the bridge on eastern side of River Euphrates.
2006: 24.5 10 Birezik – 26.5 60 Birezik (at least 20 pairs nesting on cliffs 1.5-2 km. north of the bridge, at River Euphrates).
2007: 14.5 4 Mezbahane (at breeding cliff) – 25.5 60 Birezik (cliffs N of the town, along river Euphrates) – 25.5 10 Halfeti (incl. 1-2 pairs breeding in drain-pipe 1.5 from the village immediately at the road towards Birezik).
Local, formerly believed to be confined to southern part of Euphrates valley, e.g. Birezik (where discovered by Erling Krabbe on the DOF Excursion to Turkey 1970) and Halfeti. Probably increasing, and in 2007 more widespread, with observations from a wider range. The birds at Mezbahane bred on the southernmost cliffs in the wadi. In May 2007 10+ in small colony Nemrut Dagi (Olof Jönsson in e-mail). 2 migrating Toprakkale 7.5 2007 (Blomdahl 2007).

149. **Common Nightjar** *Caprimulgus europaeus* **Natravn**
2006: 15.5 1 singing Demirkazik village.

150. **Hoopoe** *Upupa epops* **Hærfugl**
Widespread, but rather scarce. Mainly singletons observed.
2005: Most 19.5 2 Ishak Pasa - 21.5 2 "Ibis wadi" Birezik - 21.5 3 Birezik fruit plantations.
2006: Most 18.5 3 Ispir – 21.5 3 Halikisla – 21.5 3 Igdir-Dogubayazit – 23.5 4 South Van Marshes – 25-26.5 daily max. 11 Birezik (all north of the bridge).
2007: Most 14.5 3 Tömük between Mersin and Erdemli – 16.5 2 Elmali – 16.5 3 Sultan Sazligi – 21.5 2 Bulanik – 22.5 2 Oyali.

151. **Common Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis* **Isfugl**
2005: 15.5 1 Sultan Marshes.
Very local in Turkey, mainly distributed in the W. Population 100-1000 pairs (Tucker & Heath 1994).

152. **White-breasted Kingfisher** *Halcyon smyrnensis* **Smyrnaisfugl**
2005: 24.5 2 Tarsus Delta West along a well-grown channel in lush plantations.
2006: 14.5 1 from the highway between Adana and Silifke.
2007: 26.5 2 Havutlu south of Adana.
Breeding population in Turkey about 100 pairs, bur probably lower (Cramp & Simmons 1985, Green & Moorhouse 1994). Probably the best area is south of Adana, as often observed from main road between Adana and Karatas. A reliable site is Havutlu about 10 km. S of Adana. Aften passing a large canal, turn W at a dirt road some hundred meters N of a large silvery, red-roofed silo (with a tractor store at the opposite side of the road). Drive until a canal is reached for about 800 m. Scan the canal or drive a further 1-2 km. southwards along the canal. The kingfishers often perch in the plantations. This site is also noted in certain reports as close to a sign: Group Sagon Bemal Balicik". Also observed on wires along the Adana-Karatas road, esc. between 30 and 40 km. S of Adana.

Harder than expected in 2005, using the directions in Gosney 1991, and not present at sites12-13 in Göksu Delta. Tarsus Delta is a more reliabte site. A good direction is given by Hendriks (2004), and repeated partly here. Just west of Tarsus, take the main road D400 (not the new toll road). After a few kilometres, a Renault Dealer is seen on the south side of the road. Here, take the asphalt road to the south, since left (as noted in Gosney 1991). At a fast brook along road 5, turn south again: the next km´s along the eastern site of the forest is the main site. "The Picnic Area", described in Gosney 1991 proved unsuccesfull.

Other areas includes main road leading S from main Highway Adana-Gaziantep towards Yumurtalik (at village of Demirtas) (Grunwell 2005). Observed Birezik May 2006 (Nilsson 2006).

Prefers wooden areas and plantations with well grown canals and wires for lookout post, but kept well hidden during most of the stay. Not necessarily a wetland bird, as often seen away from water in areas where more widespread, such as in India (own obs.).

153. **Pied Kingfisher** *Ceryle rudis* **Gråfisker**

2005: 21.5 2 fish ponds along River Euphrates S of Birezik - 21.5 1 gravel pits north of Birezik along west bank of River Euphrates.

2007: 25.5 4 Kiji Restaurant, Birezik.

A species with a southern distribution inTurkey, to be looked for even at Halfeti, at Göksu and Tarsus Deltas and along Tigris along slowly streaming rivers, prefarable with fish ponds. Population estimated to ca. 200 pairs in Turkey (Cramp 1985).

154. **European Bee-eater** *Merops apiaster* **Biæder**

Common and widespread, especially attracted by bee-farming, but regular throughout.

2005: Most 13.5 25 Akgöl, Göksu - 15.5 24 at colony Dorigal - 15.5 20 Kayseri - 16.5 20 Maden Koprunasi. - 17.5 20 migrating Rize - 17.5 75 migrating Hopa - 18.5 16 Igdir - 19.5 11 Ishak Pasa - 19.5 14 Van hills (of which 11 migrating north) - 19.5 10 Erzek Gölü - 20.5 29 Tatvan - 21.5 20 River Euphrates S of Birezik - 21.5 60 gravel pits N of Birezik along western bank of River Euphrates (the former locality for Blue-cheeeked Bee-eater,), incl. breeding colony.

2006: Most 17.5 21 Kayseri-Sarkisla - 17.5 25 Sivas – 18.5 42 Erzinzan-Mercan – 21.5 45 Dogubayazit – 22.5 25 Ishak Pasa – 23.5 79 Bitlis-Silman – 23.5 21 Silvan-Diyabakir – 24.5 35 Atatürk Barazi (see Green Bee-eater) – 25.5 15 Birezik. On migration 19.5 9 migrating Kalkandere – 21.5 17 Ishak Pasa – 22.5 11 Bendimahi Marshes-Van – 23.5 12 Van-Tatvan.

2007: Most 18.5 20 Yoncalic-Maden Köprubasi – 18.5 20 at coloni Maden Köprubasi – 18.5 50 at coloni Ispir – 20.5 10 Halikisla (incl. breeding pair) – 20.5 17 Tuzluca - 21.5 20 Erzis-Aydinlar – 21.5 30 Bulanik (incl. breeding coloni Rustemgedik) – 22.5 22 Baykan-Batman – 22.5 55 Sucete, Raman Dagi – 22.5 25 Hasankeyf – 23.5 10 Buzak – 24.5 45 at breeding colony Atatürk Baraji. On migration 18.5 11 Yoncalic-Maden Köprubasi – 19.5 10 Rize-Hopa

The Turkish population estimated to between 10.000 and 100.000 pairs (Tucker & Heath 1994).

155. **Blue-cheeked Bee-eater** *Merops superciliosus* **Grøn Biæder**

2006: 24.5 40 at breeding site Atatürk Baraji (between Adiyaman and Sanli Urfa).

2007: 24.535 at breeding site Atatürk Baraji.

The breeding site at Atatürk Barasi is easily found. 3km west of the road crossing at Atatürk Barasi, the road crosses the rover Euphrates. 200 m. further to the west the birds breeds in a mixed colony with Bee-eaters in gravel pits. 4 birds here in late April 2007, when the area was disturbed by sand-digging now (P. ter Heide in e-mail), but colony fully occupied 24.5. The coloni is in a small, sheltered area away from the colony of European Bee-eater.

Formerly bred at Birezik (e.g. >25 birds here in June 1994), but only random observations since 2001,where the habitat at the gravel pits was destructed. In recent years a small breeding colony is at Estafirulla near Tatvan (3 in 2006). Also breeds east of Igdir: take the road towards Araliki, and scan the first village (Harrop 1994, Goossens 2006, Highie 2006), and probably along the border to Armenia. Found in dry areas with gravel pits and scattered trees, especially near water. Turkish population estimated to between 40 and 80 pairs; distrubution map (Cramp 1985) fails to show several recent breeding sites, so probably overlooked.

156. **European Roller** *Coracius garrulus* **Ellekrage**
Rather common and frequently observed in lowland areas, often perching from wires in open landscape, especially in Central Anatolia and to the south. Absent from Ardahan, the NE region and most of the far East - cleverly ignoring the harsh conditions there.
2005: 19.5 5 Erzek Gölü was by far the largest numbers since we left Göksu. Again regular west of Lake Van , e.g. 20.5 8 Batman - Diyarbakir - 21.5 7 Birezik fruit plantations - 21.5 10 along River euphrat south of Birezik - 21.5 10 gravel pits north of Birezik (at the bee-eater breeding site).
2006: Widespread, most 17.5 4 Kayseri-Sarkisla - 18.5 20 Erzinzan-Mercan – 18.5 11 Mercan-Askale. In Pontic Mountains 20.5 2 Artvin-Savsat. In the far east 21.5 1 Kars – 21.5 1 Halikisla – 21.5 3 Igdir-Dogubayazit – 22.5 4 Bendimahi Marshes-Van – 23.5 1 South Van Marshes – 23.5 3 Van-Tatvan. More numereous west of Van Gölü, most 23.5 9 Bitlis-Silvan – 25.5 3 Birezik – 26.5 4 Birezik (incl. pair with nest plantations 3-4 km. N of the bridge).
2007: Fewer in Central Anatolia than in 2005 and 2006. Most 17.5 2 Sarkisla-Sivas – 18.5 3 Erzinzan-Altunkent – 20.5 4 Tuzluca – 21.5 3 Aydinlar-Bulanik – 21.5 18 Bulanik – 22.5 4 Sucete, Raman Dagi – 22.5 4 Hasankeyf – 22.5 4 Midyat – 22.5 5 Midyat-Oyali – 22.5 3 Idil-Marsin – 24.5 6 Atatürk Baraji – 24.5 2 Damlica – 25.5 4 Birezik plantations – 25.5 2 River Euphrates S of Birezik. On migration 19.5 1 Hopa.
Total Turkish population estimated to between 5000 and 50.000 pairs (Tucker & Heath 19949, but probably decrease in recent years- although less serious than in Eastern Europe.

157. **Green Woodpecker** *Picus viridis* **Grønspætte**
2005: 16.5 1 Gelinkaya.
2006: 16.5 1 Ispir.
2007: 17.5 1 Dayidiresi near Sivas – 19.5 1 Gelinkaya.

158. **Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopus major* **Stor Flagspætte**
2006: 18.5 1 Izikdere -19.5 2 Izikdere – 20.5 2 Cam Gecedi.
2007: 19.5 1 Cam Gecedi.

159. **Syrian Woodpecker** *Dendrocopus syriacus* **Syrisk Flagspætte**
2005: 19.5 2 Ishak Pasa (one having imitated Great spotted Woodpecker in enforcing the territorial drumming by using metal caps on telephone wires!) - 21.5 3 Bizerik fruit plantations - 22.5 2 Isikli - 23.5 1 Demircili.
2006: 15.5 1 Imamli – 17.5 1 Kayseri-Sivas – 22.5 3 Dogubayazit – 22.5 1 Bendimahi Marshes-Van – 23.5 1 Silvan-Diyarbakir – 25.5 6 Birezik.
2007: 15.5 1 Demircili – 15.5 3 Imamli – 20.5 1 Ishak Pasa – 25.5 2 Birezik plantations
Found in ochards and open woodland, often seen in lonely trees in agricultural landscape.

160. **Middle Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopus medius* **Mellemflagspætte**
2005: 16.5 1 Erzinzan - Mescan, in deciduous forest along river with scrubs.

Sometimes observed in plantations and orchards in central Turkey, but more common to the west of the treated area.

161. **Lesser Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopus minor danfordi* **Lille Flagspætte**
2005: 23.5 1 Imamli.
2007: 15.5 2 Demirzili – 15.5 1 Kamisli between Pozanti and Demirkazik.
The ssp. *danfordi* shows, compared to North European populations "Full black band behind ear-coverts reaching back of head" (Cranp & Simmons 1985), creating a darker head impression than expected from Scandinavian birds.

162. **Eurasian Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla* **Vendehals**
2007: 21.5 1 Sir Er Hotel, Dogubayazit.

163. **Common Skylark** *Alauda arvensis* **Sanglærke**
Locally widespread in arable and flat grassy land, mainly in Central and East Anatolia.
2005: Most in the East with max.16.5 10 Baskarschmag - 17.5 15 Ardahan - 17.5 20 Aktas Gölü. - 17.5 25 Cidlir Gölü - 18.5 80 Kars-Halikista - 18.5 10 Serpmetas - 19.5 30 Erzek Gölü.
2006: Most 17.5 10 Sultan Sazligi – 21.5 15 Kars – 21.5 100 Kars-Halikisla.
2007: Most 16.5 15 Kavdarli-Sultan Sazligi – 19-20.5 daily max. 20 Ardahan – 20.5 10 Ardahan-Kars - 20.5 40 Kars – 20.5 60 Kars-Halikisla – 21.5 20 Sogoksu – 21.5 20 Caldiran Marshes – 21.5 20 Bulanik.

164. **Crested Lark** *Galerida cristata* **Toplærke**
Widespreds throughout; frequently observed in open landscape, ranging from village egdes to dry arabla land, salt-steppes and low hills with low herb vegetation. The densiest population is found in the south.
2005: Most 21.5 40 Birezik - 23.5 50 Göksu Delta - 23.5 25 Kurkulus - 24.5 20 Tuzla Gölü, Tarsus Delta - 24.5 65 Tuzla Creek.
2006: Most 14.5 50 Göksu Delta – 21.5 5 Halikisla-Igdir – 23.5 12 Diyarbakir-Siverik – 24.5 7 Nemrut Dagi – 24-26.5 daily max. 25 Birezik.
2007: Most 14.5 125 Akgöl, Göksu Delta – 15.5 55 Göksu Delta – 16.5 30 Sultan Sazligi – 21.5 10 Bulanik -22.5 11 Bayran-Batman – 22.5 20 Hasankeyf-Midyat – 22.5 10 Midyat – 22.5 30 Midyat-Oyali – 22.5 55 Oyali – 23.5 10 Marsin-Diyarbakir – 24.5 5 Nemrut Dagi -24.5 10 Damlica – 25.5 20 Birezik plantations – 26.5 10 Tuzla Gölü S of Adana.
This racial situation is complex, with a lot of individual variation observed - ranging from very pale, sparsely streaked birds to darker, more well streaked with distinct dark streaking across breast. Thus, we support Svensson (1994) in regarding all as ssp. *meridiornalis* contrarity to dividing subtile variants into several ssp. (such as *caucasica* (Taurus to Caucasus) and *subtaurica* (Anatolian plateau, as sometimes proposed). Wear and colour adaption to different habitats seems a better explanation here. At most, dividing out documented birds into distinct ssp. takes more and longer travels, more specific studies than possible on just two trips - and hundreds of skins and photoes for comparation.

165. **Wood Lark** *Lullula arborea* **Hedelærke**
2005: 18.5 3 Ishak Pasa. - 19.5 3 Ishak Pasa.
2006: 16.5 2 Demirkazik - 22.5 1 Ishak Pasa.
2007: 16.5 1 Demirkazik – 17.5 1 Tuzla Gölü.

166. **Short-toed Lark** *Calandrella brachydactyla brachydactyla* **Korttået Lærke**
2005: 13.5 6 Göksu Delta - 15.5 10 Sultan Marshes - 18.5 4 Kars - Halikisla - 23.5 15 Göksu Delta - 23.5 10 Kurkulus - 24.5 15 Tuzla Gölü, Tarsus Delta - 24.5 40 Tuzla Creek - 24.5 5 near Adana.
2006: 14.5 45 Göksu Delta – 15.5 10 Karaman-Eregli – 17.5 2 Sultan Sazligi – 21.5 5 Kars-Halikisla – 21.5 6 Halikisla-Igdir.
2007: 14.5 15 Akgöl, Göksu Delta – 14.5 2 Paradeniz Point, Göksu Delta – 16.5 25 Kavdarli-Sultan Sazligi – 21.5 1 Serpmetas – 26.5 15 Tuzla Gölü S of Adana – 26.5 5 Tuzla-Adana.
We retain nominate ssp. as explanation to our birds, which shows some variation regarding plumage, especially concerning rufous tinge to crown. Certain birds from the south indeed rather "red-crowned", but in same areas, bird with barely any reddish in crown present. Also, upperparts varies from slightly to heavily streaked within same areas. Underparts otherwise very whitish, the dark patch at the sides of the breast was sometimes invisible (in crouched posture), but when neck strectched, appeared distinct.
The song was short, performed in "short steps", ans lasting at max. 5-6 seconds; a monotomous, dry rattling with handly any imitations.
Mainly seen in dry, flat arable land and semi-derest with small herbs and short grassy vegetation - in Göksu and Tarsus numereous in same areas as Crested Lark, in Central Anatolia in same areas as Calandra Lark and Skylark.

167. **Lesser Short-toed Lark** *Calandrella rufescens* **Dværglærke**
2007: 21.5 3 Aydinlar – 21.5 2 Patnos-Bulanik – 21.5 2 Bulanik – 24.5 1 Damlica.
Rather common in agricultural landscape and natural steppe with low vegetation in the East. Rather common Bendimahi Marshes and to the north and west of Van Gölü. Noted westwards to around Birezik (Blomdahl 2007).
Compared to Asian Short-toed Lark appears *very slightly* more well-marked in breast and in general with more dark in tip of bill, but differences are argumentably small. However, it was not possible to make detailed studies and to document the tail-pattern (outer tail-feathers with dark innerweb in Lesser, all white in Asian) We noted the song to include even more imitations, and to be performed from slightly lower bowes, few meters above the ground. The “rubberball” song flight and the plumage was surprising similar to the distinct form of Indian Sandlark *C. raytal krishnakumarsinjii* occuring in Gujarat, India.
The bird 24.5 looked paler than birds from Aydinlar-Durnalik area, and may have belonged to Asian Short-toed Lark.

168. **Asian Short-toed Lark** *Calandrella cheelensis aharoni* **Mongolsk Dværglærke**
2005: 15.5 55 Sultan Sazligi.
2006: 17.5 10 Sultan Sazligi.
2007: 16.5 45 Sultan Sazligi – 16.5 10 Ovaciftlik, Sultan Sazligi – 17.5 3 Cöl Gölü.
This distinct form, often treated as a species separate from Lesser Short-toed Lark (as we do here) was studied and photographed for several hours. The taxon appears rather large and greyish for a "Lesser Short-toed", with similar clear primary projection compared to the (about) non-existing of Short-toed Lark. Appears rather full-feathered - somewhat "fluffy" compared to what is expected from Lesser Short-toed and especially Short-toed Lark (the latter often gives a slim impression).
All birds were overall grey and rather uniform with narrow, but mainly rather distinct dark crown and mantle streaks, the latter with more variation than in crown; some just narrowly streaked, others with broader, more distinct and blackish streaks. Underparts very pale sandy grey, invariably with a evenly distributed band of narrow streaks across the breast. In some, these streaks were very indistinct, in others broader and more distinct; such birds often showed streaking continuing onto

flanks. Head pattern weak with the dark eye surrounded by a broader pale area and narrow dark eye- and malar streaks, creating a "sleepy look" - never disturbing a rather unpatterned appearance . Supercilium at most slightly paler, never distinct (although with individual variation, and birds with stronger pale supercilium have been noted (Niemi 2000). The bill was short and conical, appearing all pale, but in some with faint darker tip. The broad white tail-sides (created by the all white t6) are seen when the tail was spread.

The song performed in carousel-like spirals, often rather high in the air. Appears quick, dry and "up-speeded", including short elements of imitation of other steppe species.

Habitat is dry, flat salt-steppes with scattered vegetation of *Salix* and very scattered, open scrub. *Aharoni* are supposed to appear in similar habitat throughout Central Anatolia, and are also present e.g. at Eregli Marshes and in dry steppe between Adana and Gaziantep. Dense populations probably occurs in dried areas near great saline lakes in a habitat similar to Sultan Marshes, where we found the population dense, and the bird easy find even along roadsides (as do Kristensen et al. 1999, informed by Andreas Hagermann).

The ID from other forms are recently covered by Göller & Schwalbe (2005), which described the birds based on observation of taxon, *aharoni*, present at the Central Anatolian steppes. Our observations fits well their description, but the birdsvaried slightly more, and dark tip to bill is regular in *aharoni.*

Compared to *aharoni*, Lesser Short-toed Lark is smaller and less compact, generally with more distinct streak across breast and the darker, more olive-tinged mantle (this streaking was noted in a minority of our *aharoni*, but we explains this by wear). The innerwebs of the outer tail feather is dark in *heinei*, all white in *aharoni*. Dark tip to bill more frequent in Lesser Short-toed than in *aharoni.* The two taxa said to be well seperated from each other in Turkey, with Asian occuring at the Central Anatolias steppes, and Lesser in the Ne and E part of Turkey; status of birds in many areas rather uncertain, with pale, Asian-looking birds appearing thorughout southern turkey to at least Gaziantep area. Unknown if the two merge into each other, e.g. near Birezik.

Recently, Svensson (2003) vividly described his attempt to track the species in Kazakstan, where the taxon *leocophaea*. The team never succeeded in finding the species "live", but studied the skins at the Zoological Institution in Almaty, as well as Lesser Short-toed Lark *Calandrella rufescens heinei* in the field as well. They noted *leucochaena* to be smaller than *heinei*, but otherwise their destription fits very well the observations made in Central Anatolia.

169. **Calandra Lark** *Melanocoryphra calandra* **Kalanderlærke**

Locally common in arable land and flat grassy steppes, especially in central and south Anatolia. Absent from large parts of the east where replaced by Bimaculated Lark, which see.

2005: Most 15.5 10 Sultan Sazligi - 23.5 10 Göksu Delta.

2006: Most 17.5 5 Nigde-Sultan Sazligi – 17.5 15 Sultan Sazligi – 17.5 10 Kayseri-Sarkisla – 17.5 10 Sivas-Kizildag Gecedi. Absent from the East, but again observed 23.5 Silvan-Diyarbakir, and from then widespread, most 24.5 20 Siverik-Kahta.

2007: Most 16.5 10 Kavdarli-Sultan Sazligi – 16.5 40 Sultan Sazligi – 16.5 65 Ovaciftlik – 21.5 20 Patnos-Bulanik – 21.5 120 Bulanik – 22.5 30 Midyat – 22.5 15 Oyali – 22.5 10 Idil – 23.5 10 Diyarbakir-Siverik – 23.5 70 Siverik-Bucak – 24.5 3 Damlica.

170. **Bimaculated Lark** *Melanocorypha bimaculata* **Østlig Kalanderlærke**

Locally common in grassy flat or slightly rolling country, generally on stonier ground and in slightly higher elevations with larger amount of natural vegetation of small herbs and thorny bushes than preferred by Calandra Lark, with which little overlap noted by us. In dry areas N of Birezik an westwards to Central Anatolia (including Nigde area) both species should occur alongside, with

Bimaculated preffing natural, stony steppe and Calandra Lark arable and agricultural land. Very common in the far East.
2005: Most 16.5 20 Baskarschmag - 18.5 50 between Kars and Halikista - 18.5 10 Halikista - 18.5 10 Igdir - 18.5 5 Serpmetas - 19.5 15 Van Hills. The most westerly observation was 20.5 2 Siverik.
2006: First observed 18.5 4 Baskarschmag. Abundant throughout eastern Turkey, with largest numbers 21.5 80 Kars-Halikisla – 21.5 10 Halikisla-Igdir – 22.5 25 Bendimahi Marshes-Van – 22.5 25 Van Hills. Westernmost observation 23.5 1 Silvan-Diyarbakir.
2007: First noted 16.5 1 Demirkazik – 16.5 5 Cucurbak-Elmali – 16.5 5 Elmali-Kavdarli – 17.5 3 Cöl Gölü – 18.5 3 Askale-Gelinkaya. Abundant in the east, most 20.5 20 Kars-Halikisla -20.5 15 Halikisla – 21.5 30 Serpmetas – southwesternmost observations 24.5 4 Nemrut Dagi – 24.5 1 Damlica.

171. **Shore Lark** *Eremohila alpestris penicillata* **Bjerglærke**
2005: 14.5 1 Demirkazik - 14.5 4 near Cucurbak - 16.5 9 Ovitdagi Gecedi (2800 m.) - 18.5 5 Ishak Pasa - 18.5 4 Tendurek Gecidi (2644 m.) - 19.5 5 Ishak Pasa - 19.5 2 Caldiran.
2006: 16.5 12 Demirkazik – 18.5 6 Ovitdagi Gecedi – 19.5 4 Ovitdagi Gecedi – 21.5 2 Ishak Pasa – 22.5 2 Ishak Pasa – 22.5 3 Tendürük Gecedi – 22.5 2 Gulicar.
2007: 15.5 2 Demirkazik – 18.5 6 Ovitdagi Gecedi – 19.5 1 Cam Gecedi – 23.58 Nemrut Dagi
Occures in highland plains and stone-covered hillsides with sparse vegetation up to the snow-covered, hardly vegetated region. All observations were made >1700 m. Several breeding pairs involved.
Penicillata is a strange-looking taxon! The yellowish-white throat is completely surrounded by black, in certain males leaving a characteristic "black-faced" impression; the connection rarely appears thin and almost broken. Has pale yellow tinge to throat, but sometimes weak enough to create a white-throated impression, probably affected by wear. Male have curious long, bowed "viking-helmet" horns, and often showed a strong pinkish-buff tinge to hindneck. Upperparts otherwise rather pale brownish-grey, at most with very faint greyer streaks. Females had less developed black head-pattern, often slighlty pale-spotted forehead, shorter horns and greyer- more streaked mantle.
Certain birds matched *bicornis* (S Asia Minor and Levant; (Svensson 1994), Lebanon (Cramp (1988) in nape to mantle being almost uniform pinkish-buff and face white. Cramp (1988) claims that "specimens examined from Ankara and Taurus belongs to neither race". Probably, this is caused by individual variation in *penicillata* as such birds also observed well to the north, away from range of *bicornis.*

172. **Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia* **Digesvale**
Locally very common.
2005: Most 20.5 1000 South Van Marshes and 21.5 at least 5.000 gravel pits north of Birezik (at breeding colony). Otherwise regularly seen in hundreds.
2006: Most 14.5 400 Göksu Delta – 17.5 2.000 Sultan Sazligi – 22.5 600 Bendimahi Marshes, Van Gölü – 22-23.5 daily max. 500 South Van Marshes – 25.5 600 Birezik.
2007: Most 14.5 400 Akgöl, Göksu Delta – 21.5 200 Bulanik – 22.5 300 Sucete, Raman Dagi – 22.5 50 Hasankeyf – 24.5 500 Birezik – 25.5 100 Birezik plantations.

173. **Crag Martin** *Ptyonoprogne rupestris* **Klippesvale**
Widespread in hilly and mountain areas.

2005: 13.5 4 Pozanti - 14.5 2 Canardi - 14.5 10 Demirkazik - 14.5 2 Cucurbag - 14,5 1 Kalki dag - 16.5 1 Basmarschmag - 16.5 2 Gelinkaya - 16.5 10 Ovitdagi Gecedi - 17.5 2 Hopa - 17.5 3 Artvin - 17.5 1 Ardahan - 18.5 1 Igdir - 19.5 5 Van Hills - 20.5 5 Baykan - 22.5 10 Durnalik
2006: 15.5 1 Adabag-Pozanti – 16.5 10 Cimbar Bogazi, Demirkazik – 16.5 50 Kalki Dag – 18.5 3 Mercan-Askale – 18.5 1 Gelinkaya – 19.5 4 Sivri Kaya – 20.5 1 Izikdere-Deberapazi – 20.5 1 Borcka-Artvin – 20.5 10 Artvin – 20.5 3 Artvin-Savsat – 20.5 2 Savsat-Cam Gecedi – 20.5 1 Cam Gecedi – 24.5 2 Nemrut Dagi.
2007: 15.5 4 Demirkazik Gorge – 16.5 2 Demirkazik -17.5 1 Sivas-Kizilham Gecedi – 19.5 1 Altunkent-Askale – 18.5 3 Yoncalic-Maden Köprubasi – 18.5 4 Maden Köprubasi-Ovitdagi Gecedi – 19.5 1 Borcka-Artvin – 19.5 5 Cam Gecedi – 20.5 4 Kars-Halikisla – 22.5 5 Tatvan-Baykan.

174. **Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica* **Landsvale**
Common throughout.
2005: Most 18.5 550 Caldiran - 19.5 900 Erzek Gölü. - 20.5 2000 South Van Marshes - regularly seen in hundreds at suitable places.
2006: Most 14.5 125 Adana-Silifke – 14.5 100 Göksu delta – 17.5 100 Sultan Sazligi – 24.5 220 Birezik.
2007: Most 14.5 100 Adana – 14.5 150 Adana-Mersin – 14.5 120 Mersin-Erdemli – 14.5 100 Akgöl, Göksu Delta – 16.5 1.000 Ovaciftlik – 21.5 400 Bulanik – 22.5 100 Hasankeyf. On migration 19.5 6 Hopa.

175. **Red-rumped Swallow** *Hirundo daurica* **Rødrygget Svale**
Rather common in the south.
2005: Most 13.5 20 Adana-Erdemli - 13.5 10 Silifke - 21.5 10 gravel pits north of Birezik - 24.5 10 Tarsus Delta West.
2006: Most 14.5 10 Adana-Silifke – 15.5 3 Mut - 15.5 6 Demircili – 23.5 11 Bitlis-Silvani.
2007: Most 14.5 10 Adana-Mersin – 22.5 10 Sucete, Raman Dagi – 25.5 5 Halfeti – 26.55 Gravel pits, Birezik – 26.5 5 Havultu.

176. **House Martin** *Delichon urbica* **Bysvale**
Rather scarce, but widespread througout.
2005: Most 20.5 30 South Van Marshes - 21.5 30 Birezik.
2006: Most 16.5 25 Demirkazik – 17.5 25 Sultan Sazligi – 17.5 25 Kayseri-Sivas – 19.5 200 Kalkandere – 24-26.5 daily max.100 Birezik.
2007: Most 14.5 50 Adana – 14.5 200 Adana-Mersin – 14.5 40 Mersin-Erdemli – 14.5 215 Akgöl, Göksu Delta – 15.5 40 Silifke – 16.5 50 Demirkazik – 19.5 50 Rize – 19.5 15 migrating Hopa – 22.5 10 Idil-Mardin.

177. **Tawny Pipit** *Anthus campestris* **Markpiber**
2005: 14.5 3 Kalki Dag - 14.5 1 Nigde - 16.5 1 Basmarschmag - 22.5 1 Isikli - 23.5 3 Göksu Delta.
2006: 16.5 1 Cucurbak – 21.5 3 Kars-Halikisla – 22.5 1 Ishak Pasa.
2007: 20.5 1 Cilli Gecedi -20.5 1 Sogoksu – 21.5 1 Serpmetas – 21.5 3 Bulanik.

178. **Water Pipit** *Athnus spinoletta coutelli* **Bjergpiber**
2005: 14.5 3 Cimbar Bogazi, Demirkazik - 16.5 20 in a group Ovitdagi Gecedi pass (at 2800 m.).
2006: 16.5 3 Cimbar Bogazi, Demirkazik – 18.5 2 Sivri Kaya – 19.5 3 Sivri Kaya -19.5 10 Ovitdagi Gecedi – 20.5 1 Cam Gecedi.

2007: 16.5 3 Cimbar Bogazi, Demirkazik – 18.5 4 Yoncalic-Maden Köprubasi – 18.5 7 Ovitdagi Gecedi – 18.5 2 Sivri Kaya – 19.5 15 Cam Gecedi – 20.5 2 Cilli Gecedi – 20.5 1 Tendürek Gecedi – 21.5 3 Tendürek Gecedi.

The ssp. *coutelli* in breeding plumage has paler brown and heavier streaked upperparts and duller rufous-tinged underparts with heavier streaking on breast and flanks than European breeders. The pinkish flush, typical to European bird, are almost absent, and some birds appears just pale brownish in underparts with hardly any rosy visible.

Breeds on mountain slopes with large rocks and short grassy vegetation above tree line, probably over 2000 m. in Turkey, where widely distributed in high mountains.

179. **Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis* **Skovpiber**

2005: 16.5 3 Sivri Kaya - 17.5 2 Izikdere - 18.5 1 Ishak Pasa.
2006: 19.5 1 Sivri Kaya – 19.5 1 Sivri Kaya-Kalkandere – 21.5 1 Ardahan – 22.5 1 Gulicar.
2007: 19.5 1 Hopa – 19.5 3 Cam Gecedi -20.5 2 Ardahan-Kars – 21.5 1 Sim Er Hotel, Dogubayazit – 21.5 1 Tendürek Gecedi.

180. **White Wagtail** *Motacilla alba* **Hvid Vipstjert**

Scarce throughout.
2005: Most 16.5 2 Ispir - 17.4 4 Hoba - 18.5 2 Kars.
2006: Most 18.5 4 Ovitdagi Gecedi – 18.5 3 Izikdere – 19.5 4 Sivri Kaya – 19.5 6 Sivri Kaya-Kalkandere – 21.5 4 Kars – 23.5 3 Van-Tatvan.
2007: Most 17.5 2 Erzinzan-Altunkent – 19.5 2 Ardahan – 20.5 2 Ardahan – 20.5 2 Ardahan-Kars

All birds *alba*, but some birds from Pontic mountains showed fuller and broader white wing-bars than Scandinavian birds.

181. **Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava* **Gul Vipstjert**
(**Black-headed) Yellow Wagtail** *M.f. feldegg* **Balkanvipstjert**

Common in wetlands, marshes and more arid areas close to water throughout.
2005: Most 13.5 25 Göksu Delta - 15.5 24 (of which four migrating north) Sultan Sazligi - 17.5 15 Ardahan - 19.5 8 Erzek Gölü - 19.5 20 South Van Marshes - 20.5 40 South Van Marshes - 21.5 10 Euphrat south of Birezik - 23.5 25 Göksu Delta - 24.5 35 Tuzla Gölü, Tarsus Delta.
2006: most 14.5 15 Göksu Delta – 17.5 10 Sultan Sazligi – 22-23.5 daily max. 35 South Van Marshes.
2007: Most 14.5 4 Akgöl, Göksu Delta – 16.5 40 Sultan Sazligi- 19.5 5 Rize-Hopa – 20.5 4 Kars – 21.5 4 Caldiran Marshes – 22.5 10 Baykan-Batman.

All males were most typical in showing jet-black and clear-cut, glossy "helmet" - we never noticed any with white traces op supercilium, as sometimes seen in otherwise “pure” *feldegg*, e.g. on migration in Middle East. Females were as variable as ever, with some being "ghost versions" of males, others closer to e.g. *flava* with pale supercilium, but invariably duller and greyer head. As usually, the call was harsher than in western European birds; this appears to all eastern taxa og the “species”. Compared to Citrine, call less strong and rolling, but it takes a lot of experience to learn the differences - and basing the ID of a Citrine on call only, e.g. in vagrants, is not recommanded.

A strange hybrid was observed and documented at Serpmetas 18.5. The head was mainly black, but with thin yellow and irregular supercilium, especially behind eye and a greyish tinge to neck (especially hindneck) and face.

(Grey-/Ashy-headed) Yellow Wagtail *M. F. flava/beema* **Gul Vipstjert**

2006, several observations of pale-headed birds: 19.5 2 males + 2 females (looking as expected from *flava*) Deberapazi – 23.5 2 males + 1 female South Van Marshes (matching ssp. *beema)*

The South Van Marshes birds were studied at close range. Males had a paler, more greyish head than *flava*, showing broader white supercilium, more extensive white in ear-coverts and whitish troat centre and sides. The yellow of the underparts appeared paler.

182. **Citrine Wagtail** *Motacilla citreola werae* **Citronvipstjert**
2005: 17.5 2 males Ardahan - 20.5 9, of which 4 males and 3 females South Van Marshes, Van.
2006: 22.5 3 males + 2 females South Van Marshes, Van – 23.5 4 males + 2 females South Van Marshes, Van.
2007: 16.5 2 males+1 female pumping station, Sultan Sazligi – 20.5 2 8male+female) Ardahan
The species is traditionally found at South Van Marshes, but to looked for in any suitable habitat: wet marshes with scattered bushes or well vegetated lake-sides with muddy banks and along slowly flowing rivers. Especially, the extensive marshes around Ardahan (where we by chance found the species in 2005) and down to Ararat looks probably holds a good population. Here 17 males counted Saz Gölü 31.5 2005 (Birding World, June 2005).
Less frequent, there are observations from Sultan Sazligi (but up to 10 there in May 2007), Göksu and Tarsus deltas, Serpmetas, Tüpürce Gölü and Bulanik. The extension of breeding range into Turkey is of relatively new date; Cramp (1985) does not include Turkey in the breeding range, but just notes the species as vagrant to Turkey.
The taxon *werae* occurs. Compared to the Siberian breeder *citreola*, it is slightly smaller with relatively longer legs (many measured). Males are often duller yellow and lacks the cold greenish-yellow tinge typical to *citreola* - some *werae* males has a slightly browner undertone to the yellow head and underside. The upperparts are often somewhat duller with less developed and clear-cut neck-bar (although is may be as pronounced), and the flanks invariably are pale (or with grey confined to upper flanks. This appears even to females; any *citreola* studied, e.g. in Siberia, have had crealy grey flanks (which tends to enforce the white wing-bars - especially in 1 year birds). The characters are constant enough to retain the two as good taxa, versus the statement in Alström and Mild (2003), who unsatisfactory attemp to lumb the two, based on “claimed "overlap”. The breeding ranges are furthermore well separated (although an overlap zone probably exist in Central Asia), with *citreola* inhabiting North Russia, and *werae* Central Asia, probably increasing in Turkey and invading Eastern Europe. To provoke: there are better reasons for treating the two as seperate species than to lump them.

183. **Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea* **Bjergvipstjert**
Restricted to the northend and eastern part, where mainly found in hilly or montainous areas along streams.
2005: 16.5 5 Sivri Kaya - 17.5 1 Izikdere - 17.5 1 Rize - 17.5 2 Hoba - 17.5 2 Ardahan
2006: 18.5 1 Sivri Kaya – 18.5 1 Izikdere – 19.5 2 Sivri Kaya – 19.5 2 Sivri Kaya-Kalkandere – 19.5 1 Kalkandere – 20.5 3 Izikdere-Debarapazi – 20.5 1 Hopa – 20.5 2 Borcka-Artvin – 20.5 1 Artvin-Savsat – 22.5 1 Caldiran-Bendimahi Marshes.
2007: 17.5 2 Kizilham Gecedi-Erzinzan – 18.5 1 Ikizdere – 19.5 4 Hopa.

184. **Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes* **Gærdesmutte**
2005: 14.5 2 mid gorge, Demirkazik - 16.5 3 Sivri Kaya - 16.5 1 Izikdere - 17.5 1 Izikdere - 17.5 10 Debeparazi - 17.5 1 Hoba.
2006: 18.5 2 Izikdere – 19.5 3 Sivri Kaya – 19.5 3 Kalkandere – 20.5 2 Hopa.
2007: 19.5 3 Hopa -19.5 2 Artvin-Savsat.

Apparently mainly a mountain forest bird in E and C Turkey. In parts of ranges confined to high mountains (e.g. in Nepal, I have noted the species solely in areas above 3000 m. in the Everest Range)

185. **Common Dipper** *Cinclus cinclus* **Vandstær**
2005: 17.5 1 stream near Dereparazi.
2006: 19.5 1 juvenile Izikdere – 19.5 2 Sivri Kaya – 19.5 6 Kalkandere-Izikdere – 20.5 1 Izikdere-Debarapazi.
Ssp. *caucasicus* occurs. Differs from European forms in having slightly paler greyish-brown upperparts and belly. A juvenile in 2006 had entire underbody whitish-grey with darker scaling.

186. **White-spectacled Bulbul** *Pycnonotus xanthropygos* **Levantbulbul**
Locally common in towns, gardens and orchards along the SE coast and eastwards to at least Birezik.
2005: Regular between Göksu and Birezik, most 13.5 8 Adana-Silifte - 13.5 10 Akgöl, Göksu Delta - 21. 5 6 Birezik town - 23.5 3 Demirzili - 24.5 8 Tarsus Delta West.
2006: 14.5 15 Adana-Silifke – 14.5 15 Goksu Delta – 15.5 1 Silifke – 15.5 1 Mut – 26.5 4 "Ibis wadi", Birezik.
2007: 14.5 2 Adana-Mersin – 14.5 7 Mersin-Erdemli – 14.5 6 Mezbahane – 14.5 1 Silifke – 14.5 5 Akgöl, Göksu Delta – 15.5 2 Silifke – 15.5 3 Imamli – 15.5 1 Göksu Delta – 15.5 1 Göksu Delta-Mersin – 15.5 1 Mersin-Pozanti -24.5 4 Isik Restaurant, Birezik – 26.5 2 Adana – 26.5 8 Havultu – 26.5 4 Tuzla-Adana.

187. **Common Accentor** *Prunella modularis* **Jernspurv**
2005: 16.5 4 Sivri Kaya. - 17.5 3 Izikdere.
2006: 18.5 1 Gelinkaya – 18-20.5 daily max. 5 Izikdere – 19.5 2 Sivri Kaya – 19.5 3 Sivri Kaya-Kalkandere – 20.5 1 Deberapazi-Rize – 20,5 2 Cam Gecedi.
2007: 18.5 2 Sivri Kaya – 19.5 1 Hopa.

188. **Radde´s Accentor** *Prunella ocularis* **Taurusjernspurv**
2005: 14.5 4 (of which one singing) Demirkazik, in the steep parts between Cimbar Bogazi and the gorge, at 2700 m.
2006: 16.5 3 singing Cimbar Bogazi, Demirkazik – 22.5 1 singing Tendürük Gecedi (at 2800 m).
2007: 16.5 3 singing Cimbar Bogazi, Demirkazik.
Found between 2000 and 3000 m. (in Aladag mainly 2400-2800 m.) on steep rocky and stony slopes with dwarf vegetation of small, thorny bushes and dense groups of juniper and barberries. Often near streams, in the last vegetated areas just below snow-line (narrow subalpine zone of xerophytic vegetation). In S and E, also high alpine meadows with extensive areas of rocks, boulders and black lava (probably >2600 m.)
Occurs in mountains from Central Turkey and eastwards, e.g. Aladag (where mainly observed Demirkazik and Kalki Dag) Nemrud Dagi (near Tatvan, Van Gölü), Samdi Dag, Cilo Dag, Kavusshap Dag and Suphan Dagi (Cramp 1988, Tucker & Heath 1994, Green & Moorhouse 1995). Further recent observations in slopes between Sivri Kaya and Ovitdagi Gecedi (where max. 3), black lava areas between Dogubayazit and Caldiran (Serpmetas west of Caldiran, Tendürük Gecedi) and mountains of SE Turkey (e.g. Gözelka south of Lake Van in the direction to Hakkari) (Wierda 2001,Ortvad 2004, Gerdin et al. 2005, Lindblad 2006). At Mount Ararat, only one old observation before 1914, but probably overlooked here. Population 500-5000 pairs, but probably larger (Tucker & Heath 1995).

Song similar to Common Accentor, but quicker and higher-pitched with a more “silvery” quality, not unlike a very short and well structured lark-song. Often with more well scapes sequences, and then not unlike song of Rock Bunting. “Tse TJEVE-tjeve – tjevi – tjei” or “dee-DEEI- dy vy dy vy deei”.

189. **Alpine Accentor** *Prunella collaris montana* **Alpejernspurv**
2005: 16.5 1 Ovitdagi Gecedi at 2800 m., attracted to snow-covered buildings.
2006: 16.5 4 Cimbar Bogazi, Demirkazik – 19.5 1 Sivri Kaya – 19.5 4 Ovitdagi Gecedi.
2007: 18.5 1 Ovitdagi Gecedi.
Breeds in mountains above 1800 m. on sunny, steep slopes with large rocks and just sparse vegetation, typically even higher up and in less vegetated hilly sides than Radde´s Accentor.
. The ssp. *montana* are slightly paler and more buffy brown than *collaris*.

190. **Wallcreeper** *Tichodroma muraria* **Murløber**
2005: 14.5 2 Cimbar Bogazi, Demirkazik, both at around 2800 m. above the "wallcreeper gorge".
2006: 16.5 3 (of which 2 males) Cimbar Bogazi, Demirkazik.
A much sought-after speciality, in which we suceeded well in observing it from the "observation cliffs" of the Snowcocks in both 2005 and 2006. Also frequently near the entrance to the gorge, where 3-4 birds noted prior to our 2005 visit. Demirkazik is the most reliable in Turkey, although a population also is found the Eastern Pontics, e.g. at Sivri Kaya, where observed mainly on steep cliffs (1)2-4 km. south of the village on the western side of the road.
Found in mountain areas with very steep, almost vertical large cliffs and in deep gorges with scattered vegetation of small grassy tussocks, used for nesting.

191. **Robin** *Erithacus rubicola* **Rødhals**
2005: 16.5 1 Izikdere - 17.5 1 Izikdere - 17.5 2 Dereparazi - 17.5 1 Hoba.
2006: Rather common Pontic Mountains, most 18-20.5 daily max. 6 Izikdere – 19.5 2 Sivri Kaya.
2007: 17.5 3 Kizilham Gecedi-Erzinzan – 19.5 3 Cam Gecedi.

192. **Nightingale** *Luscinia megarhynchos* **Sydlig Nattergal**
2005: 13.5 2 Göksu Delta - 13.5 1 Canardi - 13.5 2 Curcurbak - 15.5 3 Curcurbak - 16.5 3 Gelinkaya - 17.5 1 Ikizdere- 17.5 1 Ikizdere - 20.5 1 Sevas - 24.5 6 Tarsus Delta West.
2006: 15.5 1 Imamli-Mut – 15.5 1 Pozanti-Demirkazik – 17.5 2 Karhan – 18.5 2 Erzinzan-Mercan – 18.5 7 Gelinkaya – 23.5 5 Van-Tatvan – 25.5 3 Birezik – 26.5 2 Birezik.
2007: 15.5 15 Pozanti-Demirkazik – 15.5 3 Pinarbasi -15-16.5 daily max. 5 Cucurbak – 16.5 5 Elmali – 17.4 4 Sarkisla-Sivas – 17.5 2 Kizilham Gecedi-Erzinzan – 18.5 1 Gelinkaya – 18.5 1 Yoncalic – 18.5 2 Maden Köprubasi – 20.5 2 Halikisla – 21.5 1 Tatvan-Baykan – 23.5 1 Karadut
Scarce throghout. Prefers well vegetated deciduous woodland, often in slightly hilly country where usually associated with dense vegetation in valley bottoms near streaming water.

193. **Rufous Bush Robin** *Cercotrichas galactotes syriacus* **Trænattergal**
2005: 13.5 2 Akgöl, Göksu Delta - 19.5 1 Erzek Gölü - 20.5 1 Tatvan - 21.5 1 "Ibis Wadi", Birezik - 21.5 4 orchards north of Birezik - 23.5 4 Göksu Delta - 24.5 12 Tarsus Delta West - 24.5 6 Tuzla Creek.
2006: 14.5 3 Göksu Delta – 15.5 1 Imamli-Mut – 22.5 1 Dogubayazit – 24.5 1 Nemrut Dagi – 25.5 8 Birezik – 25.5 2 Birezik.

2007: 14.5 5 Mersin-Erdemli – 14.5 15 Mezbahane – 14.5 1 Silifke – 14.5 10 Akgöl, Göksu Delta – 15.5 2 Göksu Delta – 23.5 1 Buzak – 23.5 1 Karadut -24.5 2 Karadut – 24.5 3 Gravel Pits, Birezik – 25.5 4 Birezik plantations – 25.5 1 Ibis Wadi, Birezik.
Widespread in arid, open areas with bushes and in orchards and young decidious wood with clearings in the southern, humid part of Turkey.
The ssp *syriacus* have greyish-brown upperparts, differing from the redder of the western nominate form.

194. **White-throated Robin** *Irania guturralis* **Hvidstrubet Nattergal**
2005: 22.5 4 Isikli - 22.5 12 Durnalik.
2006: 21.5 2 males Halikisla – 24.5 10 Nemrut Dagi.
2007: 16.5 1 male Demirkazik – 23.5 1 female Karadut – 23.5 8 Nemrut Dagi – 24.5 1 Karadut - 24.5 10 Nemrut Dagi.
Locally common throughout S and E Turkey, mainly 1000-2200 m. in hilly areas with lush vegetations, scrubs and patches of trees, such as orchards, growth and decidious forest with large trees (esp. Oaks). Locally in dense scrub in wadis and hill-sides.
Song is strong, lika an up-speeded large *Sylvia*-warbler ("an excited speaker having 2-3 Red Bulls before performing"), often includes repeted, thrush-like imitations. Often sings for long intervals in dense tree-crowns; prefers oaks.

195. **Common Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus samaisicus* **Rødstjert**
2005: 14.5 1 male Kalki Dag.
2006: 20.5 1 male Cam Gecedi – 22.5 1 male Gulicar.
2007: 19.5 3 Cam Gecedi (one nesting i nest-box, see Krüper´s Nuthatch).
Ssp. *samaisicus* is characterized by a wide, white secondary patch, being most distint in males, which generally shown brigher red plumage parts than in nominate form (own studies, Israel in spring).

196. **Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros (ochruros/semirufus)* **Husrødstjert**
2005: 14.5 10 Demirkazik - 14.5 3 Kalki Dag - 16.5 1 male Ovitdagi Gecedi - 16.5 male *semirufus* and female Sivri Kaya - 19.5 7 Ishak Pasa - 19.5 2 Gulicar (*ochruros*) - 19.5 2 Ishak Pasa.
2006: 16.5 10 Cimbar Bogazi, Demirkazik – 16.5 8 Kalki Dag – 18.5 1 male *ochruros* Gelinkaya – 18.5 1 Ispir-Ovitdagi Gecedi – 19.5 1 Sivri Kaya – 21.5 4 Ishak Pasa – 22.5 2 males Ishak Pasa (of which one *semirufus*) – 22.3 3 (of which one male *semirufus*) Tendürük Gecedi.
2007: 15.5 2 Demirkazik – 16.5 5 Cimbar Bogazi, Demirkazik – 18.5 2 males Maden Köprubasi-Ovitdagi Gecedi – 19.5 1 male Cam Gecedi – 20.5 1 male Tendürek Gecedi. – 20.5 5 Sogoksu – 20.5 1 Gülizar – 20.5 1 Ishak Pasa – 21.5 3 Tendürek Gecedi (one *semirufus*) – 21.5 10 Sogoksu (one *semirufus*) – 21.5 6 (one *semirufus*) Serpmetas. *Ochruros* if nothing other is mentioned.
Two taxa occurs. The majority are *ochruros*, but a few males *semirufus* with red belly sharply offset from blackish breast observed, especially in the Far East; intergrated noted throughout.
Ochruros (Central and E Turkey) male blackish with greyer crown to hindneck and red confined to hindbelly and under tail-coverts, diffusely offset from greyish-black belly. May exhibit a slight paler panel across secondaries (generally more pronounced in European populations).
Semirufus (Middle East) Similar to ochruros, but males have brownish-red belly to undertail-coverts, belly sharply offset from blackish breast. Cap greyish, upperparts dull blackish.
(Phoenicuroides (N and E Central Asia) blacker in breast and upperparts with rather sharply defined greyish cap. Belly to under tail-coverts red, sharply offset from black breast (Svensson 1992). Similar to *semirufus*, but in average slightly larger.

Note: *Rufiventris* (N Iran and eastwards to Himalaya and China) often noted as very similar to *phoenicuroides*. However, in many birds from North India (Rhajastan) and Nepal males head and upperparts typically much blacker with a bluish tinge and very deep red underparts and tail (could be mistaken for one of the blue flycatchers in sharp sunlight!) and often found in different habitat such as dense woodlands (own. obs., India and Nepal). Birds with duller plumage and greyish-tinged crown the most regular in desert areas in NW India (Gujarat and the Thar Desert, W Rhajastan), and are probably *phoenicuroides*.

Further investigation required on relation between the red-bellied, eastern taxa, and the western *gibraltariensis*-group, which is not treated here. The most recent review (Steins 2005), concludes: "It deserves consideration to treat the red-bellied subspecies of Black Redstart, comprising *P.o. phoenicuroides* and *P.o. rufiventris* as seperate species, under the name of Eastern Black Redstart *P. phoenicuroides"*. Especially after having seen birds from North India and Nepal it is easy reach the conclusion, that these taxa clearly is something differing from European birds above ssp. status to put it at least. The status of *ochruros* in this aspect is most interesting, and future visitors should try to document as many individuals as possible.

Females appeared either grey (as expected from European breeders) or paler brownish, the latter fitting ssp. *semirufus*.

197. **Northern Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe libanotica* **Stenpikker**

Common in hilly and mountain areas with sparse vegetation, especially above tree-line, where abundant in alpine habitat and at high mountain slopes.

2005: Most 16.5 5 Ovitdadi Gegedi - 19.5 25 Ishak Pasa.

2006: Most 15.5 5 Imamli-Mut – 16.5 30 Demirkazik – 18.5 7 Ovitdagi Gecedi – 21-22.5 daily max. 35 Ishak Pasa.

2007: Most 15.5 6 Demirkazik – 16.5 5 Cimbar Bogazi, Demirkazik – 16.5 10 Demirkazik – 18.5 8 Ovitdagi Gecedi – 19.5 10 Cam Gecedi – 20.5 10 Ishak Pasa – 21.5 10 Sogoksu.

The ssp. *libanotica* occurs in Turkey. Compared to *oenanthe* (Europe), males have slightly paler grey (less bluish-tinged) upperparts and restricted, paler creamy breast (ranging from extensive in forebrest (rare) to almost lacking). Tail-bar said to be narrower. Females frequently noted as more male-like (Svensson 1994).

198. **Isabelline Wheatear** *Oenanthe isabellina* **Isabellastenpikker**

Rather common throughout, locally abundant in dry, flat steppes and semi-desert, with very dense populations in Central Anatolia, e.g. Sultan Sazligi. Also common on slightly sloping hill sides with stones and low herb vegetation. Associates with Soushlik, which borrows is used for nesting, as seen Demirkazik, Sultan Sazligi and Ishak Pasa. Overlaps extensively with Northern Wheatear at Ishak Pasa. Rather scarce in parts of the south.

Song is varied and often includes strange, whistling imitations.

2005: Most 15.5 6 Cucurbak - 15.5 50 Sultan Sazligi - 19.5 20 Ishak Pasa.

2006: Most 15.5 40 Karaman-Eregli (incl. several pairs with youngs) – 17.5 35 Sultan Sazligi – 17.5 10 Sultan Sazligi-Kayseri – 21.5 8 Kars-Halikisla – 21.5 10 Halikisla-Igdir – 21-22.5 daily max. 40 Ishak Pasa (several pairs with youngs) – 22.5 25 Dogubayazit – 22.5 15 Bendimahi Marshes-Van – 22.5 15 Van Hills.

2007: Most 16.5 5 Cucurbak-Elmali – 16.5 20 Kavdarli-Sultan Sazligi – 16.5 150 Sultan Sazligi – 16.5 70 Ovaciftlik – 17.5 65 Cöl Gölü – 17.5 7 Kayseri-Sarkisla – 23.5 5 Siverik-Buzak – 24.5 5 Nemrut Dagi.

199. **Black-eared Wheatear** *Oenanthe hispanica melanoleuca* **Middelhavsstenpikker**

Rather common, mainly in the east and south, with few observations Central Anatolia. More widespread in 2007 than in previous years.
2005: Most 19.5 5 Van Hills - 22.5 3 Isikli - 22.5 7 Durnalik.
2006: Only singletons, apart from 21.5 2 males + 1 femala Halikisla – 22.5 1 male + 1 female Van Hills – 23.5 2 (pair) Bitlis-Silvan – 24.5 3 Nemrut Dagi.
2007: 14.5 1 Erdemli-Mezbahane – 14.5 2 males Mezbahane – 14.5 1 female Akgöl, Göksu Delta – 15.5 2 males Imamli -17.5 2 males Sarkisla-Sivas – 18.5 1 Erzinzan-Altunkent – 18.5 1 male Maden Köprubasi – 20.5 3 Halikisla – 22.5 2 Baykan-Batman – 23.5 2 Siverik-Buyak – 23.5 2 Buzak-Narince – 23.5 3 Karadut – 23.5 5 Nemrut Dagi – 24.5 1 Karadut – 24.5 11 (9 males+2 females) Nemrut Dagi -24.5 1 Nemrut Dagi-Kahta – 24.5 1 Kahta-Atatürk Baraji – 26.5 2 males Birezik-Adana.
Melanoleuca males in worn spring plumage often appears striking white and black. Females more varialble, and some strange birds noted, e.g one very uniformly looking bird with greyish creamy head and underparts, cold greyish (but unpatterned) mantle and rather uniform dark wings. This bird had dark brown under wing-coverts. It associated with a male, but the dark underwing pattern is normally a male character.

200. **Finchs´s Wheatear** *Oenanthe finchii* **Hvidrygget Stenpikker**
2005: 18.5 11 Halikisla (at least 2 pairs feeding youngs) - 18.5 1 Halikisla-Tuzlea - 18.5 near Igdir - 18.5 1 female Ishak Pasa - 19.5 2 Sivri Kaya.
2006: 15.5 1 male Imamli-Mut – 20.5 1 male Savsat – 21.5 1 male Halikisla-Igdir – 23.5 1 male Bitlis-Silvan – 24.5 2 males Nemrut Dagi.
2007: 14.5 1 male Mezbahane – 15.5 1 male Demirkazik – 16.5 1 male Demirkazik – 20.5 3 Halikisla – 20.5 1 male Cilli Gecedi – 24.5 4 (2 males+2 females) Nemrut Dagi.
Locally distributed from southern Central Anatolia and eastwards. Occurs in hilly, rocky steppes and hill-sides, preferring entrances to ravines with cliffs and large rocks as well as sparse, low vegetation. In 2005 surprising local, but locally with dense population (a parallel situation to noted between Eilat and the Negev, Israel for Mourning Wheatear *O. lugens)*. In Demirkazik mainly observed on grassy areas with small bushes behind the mountaineer´´s centre, and opposite to the gorge.
Reliable areas are hilly areas between the south coast and Nigde, apart from the sites mentioned above between Bor and Camardi (Grunwell 2005); also Serpmetas and Van Hills.

201. **Red-tailed Wheatear** *Oenanthe xanthoprymna* **Kurdisk Stenpikker**
2005: 22.5 1 male Isikli - 22.5 1 female Durnalik highest up in the "moonscape".
2006: 24.5 5 Nemrut Dagi (of which a pair with at least 1 pullus).
2007: 23.5 5 (4 males+1 female) Nemrut Dagi – 24.5 10 Nemrut Dagi (several carrying food).
Scarce breeder in sparsely vegetated, steep hills or mountains >1700 m. in SE Turkey, especially in areas with large rock and vertical cliffs close to sparsely vegetated, but not necessarily steep slopes. Prefers the least vegetated areas ("moon-scapes") for breeding, and feeds in flatter areas.
The most reliable site is Nemrud Dagi, the famous archaeological site near Adiyaman in SE Anatolia (**not** to be mistaken as Nemrud Dagi W of Van Gölü - the site with the crescent-shaped lake). Here the species i among the most common passerines above the tree-limit, and a stake-out along the "new road" to the top of the stone-heads of stone, especially in stony and bushy, shallow gorges, from the checkpoint at the entrance to the old road and up to a road leads to Arsemeia (Occhiato 2001, Hendriks 2004, Malling olsen 2006).
Nemrud Dagi is easily reached from the west from Adiyaman. Getting there from the east means a ferry crossing of River Euphrates near Siverik. Follow signs from Siverik to “Feribot”. The ferry

leaves each 1.5-2 hours (in the morning from the east at 08:00 and 09:30, later in the day more irregularly, departing when the ferry is full!). The crossing takes 15 minutes. The ferry is often very crowded!

Also regular at Isikli/Durnalik, where we found the species in 2005, and where 3 observed in May 2006 and 2007 (Malling Olsen 2005, Nilsson 2006, Olof Jönsson per sms). We followed directions in Lindbladh (2002) for Isikli: in stead of parking at Isikli village, we drove a further 5-800 m. to the west above the village along a dirt road. At the edge of the orchards, follow a track to a grassy slope, used for grazing by the local shepherds, and watch the vertical cliffs. The first part produced the species, but seemingly the "moonscape" at Durnalik is a better site. Also noted in some years at Halfeti north of Birezik and in the Hakkari area (Green & Moorhouse 1994).

202. **Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra* **Bynkefugl**
2005: Few observed.
2006: 21.5 1 Ardahan.
2007: 20.5 1 male Ardahan.

203. **Stonechat** *Saxicola torquata rubecula* **Sortstrubet Bynkefugl**
2005: 15.5 1 male near Sivas.
2006: 16.5 1 male + 1 female Cucurbak.
2007: 15.5 1 male+1 female Pinarbasi – 17.5 1 male Karhan between Kizilham Gecedi and Erzinzan.
Scarce in this part of Turkey.

204. **Caspian (Siberian) Stonechat** *Saxicola maura armenica* **Kaspisk Bynkefugl**
2005: 19.5 2 (pair) south of Erzek Gölü (above a small track leading southwest immediately at the small wetland on the south side of the road passing south of Erzek Gölü).
2006: 18.5 2 males Gödker between Mercan and Askale – 18.5 1 male Sivri Kaya – 19.5 1 male Sivri Kaya – 20.5 1 male Yevutzköy near Savsat – 22.5 2 males Bendimahi Marshes-Van.
This very distinct taxon is thinly distributed in highland areas in the eastern Turkey westwards to Trabzon. Apart from our observations, it is frequenty observed westwards to Nemrud Dagi (the volcanic crater west of Lake Van). Occurs in agricultural country or in dry, flat or hilly country with bushy and rich vegetation of herbs, often near water. Still, few birders look especially for Stonechats for others than the tick - it i recommanded to make more studies to establish the exact borders between the more westerly distrubuted *rubicila* and *armenica*, which is supposed to occur at lower elevations.

Males are beautifully black and white, similar to *maura,* but with slightly less broad white sides to hind neck, somewhat deeper rufous tinge to breast (often continuing onto flanks) and slightly smaller white shoulder patches. The black mantle has narrow greyish streaking. Rump pure white, width "enlarged" by narrow white bases to all tail feathers (covering 25-30% of each feather). 2 cal year males shows strongly worn primaries, generally less clean black upperparts and narrower white shoulder patches than adults – and Siberian Stonechat *maura* in Siberia (own obs., Siberia Jun. 1989).

Female paler than *rubicola* with a rather pale overall impression, whitish rump and pale head-markings with slight pale supercilium (diffuse behind eye), whitish throat bordered below by a diffuser dark bar and indication of a broad whitish-grey neck-sides, evident in certain angles. Underparts pale creamy, most intensive at breast.

205. **Blue Rock Thrush** *Monticola solitarius* **Blådrossel**

2005: 14.5 2 Demirkazik - 17.5 1 male Savsat - 18.5 1 male Ishak Pasa - 19.5 1 male Ishak Pasa.
2006: 16.5 2 males + 1 female Kalki Dag – 18.5 1 Mercan-Askale – 18.5 1 male Ispir – 20.5 1 female (carrying food) Savsat – 24.5 1 male Nemrut Dagi.
2007: 14.5 1 male Erdemli-Mezbahane – 14.5 1 male Mezbahane – 18.5 1 male Altunkent-Askale – 19.5 2 Borcka-Artvin -20.5 2 Halikisla – 20.5 1 Dogubayazit – 22.5 1 Suceke, Raman Dagi – 23.5 2 Karadut

Rather widespread, always associated with rocks, and found in both lowland and mountains in rocky country, especially in wadies and other landscape with vertical stand of rocks; frequent near buidings (but apparently to lesser degree in Turkey than in Spain). 5000.50.000 pairs breeds Turkey (Tucker & Heath 1995), but absent from parts of N Turkey.

206. **Rock Thrush** *Monticola saxatilis* **Stendrossel**
2005: 14.5 2 males Demirkazik - 16.5 1 male + 1 female near Maden Koprunasi - 16.5 1 male Ovidagi Gecedi - 18.5 2 males + 1 female Ishak Pasa - 19.5 1 male Van Hills.
2006: 16.5 3 males + 1 female Demirkazik – 19.5 1 male Sivri Kaya – 19.5 2 (of which one male) Ovitdagi Gecedi – 22.5 2 Gulicar – 24.5 2 males + 1 female Nemrut Dagi.
2007: 16.5 2 males+1 female Cimbar Bogazi, Demirkazik – 18.5 1 male Yoncalic-Maden Köprubasi – 18.5 1 male Maden Köprubasi-Ovitdagu Gecedi – 18.5 1 male Ovitdagi Gecedi – 19.5 3 (2 males+1 female) Cam Gecedi – 20.5 2 (2 males+1 female) Sogoksu – 21.5 1 male Tendürek Gecedi – 21.5 3 (2 males+1 female) Sogoksu – 24.5 1male Nemrut Dagi

Breeds rocky mountains and sloping hills-sides with large stands of rocks, grassy meadows and small stands of herbs. Mainly in mountain >1700 m. 5000-50.000 pairs breeds throughout Turkey.

207. **Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos* **Sangdrossel**
2005: 17.5 2 Izikdere.
2006: 18-20.5 daily max. 3 Izikdere – 30.5 3 Cam Gecedi.
2007: 18.5 1 Ikizdere-Rize – 19.5 2 Cam Gecedi.

208. **Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus* **Misteldrossel**
2005: 13.5 2 Pozanti - 16.5 1 Sivri Kaya.
2006: 15.5 2 Imamli-Mut – 17.5 1 Karhan – 19.5 1 Izikdere – 20.5 3 Cam Gecedi.
2007: 17.5 2 Kizilham Gecedi-Erzinzan.

209. **Blackbird** *Turdus merula* **Solsort**
Widespread in small numbers.
2005: Most 14.5 3 Kalki Dag - 16.5 4 Izikdere - 17.5 5 Izikdere - 17.5 3 Hopa- Borcka - 23.5 4 Demircili - 24.5 3 Tarsus Delta West.
2006: Most 15.5 5 Imamli-Mut – 16.5 3 Cucurbak – 17.5 3 Karhan – 19.5 4 Sivri Kaya-Kalkandere.
2007: Most 14.5 2 Mersin-Erdemli – 17.5 2 Kizilham Gecedi-Erzinzan – 19.5 2 Hopa-Borkca.

210. **Ring Ouzel** *Turdus torquatus amicorum* **Ringdrossel**
2005: 14.5 1 male Demirkazik.
2006: 16.5 3 (of which 2 males) Cimbar Bogazi, Demirkazik.
2007: 16.5 1 male Cimbar Bogazi, Demirkazik.

Very local in high mountain areas above tree limit up to snow limit.

The ssp. *amicorum* resembles *torquatus*, but has slightly paler wings and heavier white scaling in underbody.

211. **Barred Warbler** *Sylvia nisoria* **Høgesanger**
2006: 22.5 2 Sim Er Hotel, Dogubayazit.

212. **Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin* **Havesanger**
2005: 19.5 2 South Van Marshes and 22.5 3 Isikli; probably late migrants.
2006: 14.5 1 Göksu Delta – 22.5 20 Sim Er Hotel, Dogubayazit.
2007: 21.5 2 Sim Er Hotel, Dogubayazit.

213. **Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla* **Munk**
2005: 14.5 1 Demirkazik. Common Pontic mountains, most 17.5 10 between Riza and Arhavi - 17.5 8 Hopa - 17.9 9 between Hopa and Borcksa.
2006: 14.5 2 males + 2 females Göksu Delta. Rather common Pontic mountains, most 20.5 6 Borcka.
2007: 14.5 1 female Akgöl, Göksu Delta – 15.5 2 Demirzili – 17.5 2 Kizilham Gecedi-Erzinzan – 18.5 1 Ikizdere – 19.5 16 Hopa -20.5 1 Halikisla.

214. **Eastern Orphean Warbler** *Sylvia hortensis crassirostris* **Østlig Mestersanger**
2005: 22.5 1 Durnalik - 23.4 1 Demirzili.
2006: 15.5 4 Demircili – 15.5 1 Imamli-Mut – 16.5 1 Cucurbak.
2007: 15.5 1 Demirzili – 24.5 2 Karadut.
Eastern Orphean Warbler *crassirostris* looks like a giant version of Lesser Whitethroat with dark head and palish eyes (white in some, greyer-tinged in others). The song is strong and somewhat Nightingale-like with intervals of monotomous, thrush-like notes intermixing with harsher notes, and is not unlike a “varied song” of Olive-tree Warbler, with which is often occurs at e.g. Demirzili. Found in well vegetated maquis with bushes and trees. Often use single large trees as song-post. Turkish population >5000 pairs, seemingly lacking in Central Anatolia (Shirihai et al. 2001).

215. **Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca* **Gærdesanger**
2005: 13.5 1 Pozanti - 14.5 2 at the entrance to the wadi at Demirkazik -14,5 1 Kalki Dag - 22.5 7 Durnalik.
2006: 16.5 2 Demirkazik – 16.5 4 Kalki Dag – 18.5 1 Gelinkaya – 22.5 5 Dogubayazit – 22.5 1 Bendimahi Marshes, Van Gölü – 23.5 1 Bitlis-Silvan.
2007: 15.5 2 Demirkazik – 15.5 4 Pinarbasi – 16.5 1 Demirkazik.
A rattling call is often heard. This call is more frequent further to the East, and dominetes totally in Desert Lesser Whitethroat *S. (c) minula* (own obs. UAE, Northern India).

216. **Common Whitethroat** *Sylvia communis* **Tornsanger**
2005: 14.5 2 at the entrance to the wadi at Demirkazik - 16.5 3 Delinkaya - 16.5 3 between Gelinkaya and Maden Koprunasi - .17.5 2 between Hopa and Borcksa - 20.5 2 Tatvan.
2006: Scattered observations, most 18.5 8 Gelinkaya.
2007: 15.5 1 Pozanti-Demirkazik – 15.5 4 Pinarbasi – 16.5 2 Elmali – 18.5 9 Gelinkaya.

217. **Menetries´s Warbler** *Sylvia mystacea rubescens* **Rosenbrystet Sanger**
Common in Birezik Area.
2005: 21.5 at Birezik: 20 "Ibis Wadi" (including several breeding pairs) - 1 orchards 4 km. north of Birezik - 5 along River Euphrates S of Birezik.
2006: 25-26.5 daily max. 10 “Ibis Wadi” - 25.5 3 Birezik fruit plantations -25.5 3 Birezik (along western shore of River Euphrates) – 26.5 3 Birezik fruit plantations – 26.5 .

2007: 24.5 4 Gravel pits, Birezik- 25.5 4 Birezik plantations – 25.5 2 Ibis Wadi, Birezik – 26.5 6 gravel pits, Birezik

The species have a very characteristic habit in rising and waving its tail up and down (like a happy dog!) - a habit not seen in other *Sylvia* warblers. Furthermore, the tail is contrasting darker than the upperparts - the most striking feature of the otherwise notorious anonymous female. The ssp. *rubescens* male has pale grey underparts, in a minority with a very slight rosy tinge to forebreast. Resemble Sardinian Warbler *S. melanocephala momus* (southern Levant), but the duller blackish cap merges diffusely into mantle (which often has a sandy undertone). In *momus*, the blacker cap is sharply divided from the grey mantle and the tail is paler. Also, the edges to tertials are broader and diffuser than the sharper and narrower whitish in *momus* (partly based on Shirihai et al. 2001). Song resembles other *Sylvia*-warblers, especially Subalpine Warbler, but is slightly richer with series of hard notes. The call is a dry rattle.

Menetries´s Warbler ssp. *rubescens* breeds in SE Turkey from Gaziantep and eastwards towards Lake Van, but might only be regular in the driest hottest areas, with Birezik being the classical site for the species. Occurs in dry, arid to semi-arid lowland with scattered bushes, scrubs and tamarisk stands, mainly in wadis and often near water, but also in open plantations. The vicinity to River Euphrates might explain the dense population of the Birezik Area.

Ssp. *mystacea* (the darkest and richest coloured ssp.) occurs rarely in central Eastern Turkey north of LakeVan in similar habit, but noted up to 1700 m.

Total Turkish population 1000-10.000 pairs (Shirihai et al. 2001).

218. **Sardinian Warbler** *Sylvia melanocephala* **Sorthovedet Sanger**

2006: 14.5 1 female Göksu Delta.

Breeds in areas close to the Mediterranean eastawrds to Gaziantep, in same kind of habits as Rüppell´s Warbler. Clearly outnumbered by this species in the visited area.

219. **Rüppell´s Warbler** *Sylvia rueppellii* **Sortstrubet Sanger**

2005: 23.5 1 female Demirzili - 23.5 4 males Imamli.

2006: 15.5 5 Demircili – 15.5 5 Imamli – 15.5 1 Imamli – Mut.

2007: 15.5 5 Demirzili – 15.5 5 Imamli.

Found in dry, hilly areas with dense maquis and scattered lower trees used for song-posts. The song is typical for the family (especially resembling Sardinian Warbler) -a musical, chattering warble with dry notes intermixed with quick series of clearer notes.

Distributed throughout Western and Southern Turkey eastwards onto Gaziantep region Population estimated to between 5000 and 50.000 pairs (Shirihai et al. 2001).

220. **Graceful Warbler** *Prinia gracialis* **Yndefuld Sanger**

2005: 13.5 4 Akgol, Göksu Delta - 21.5 6 along Euphrates south of Birezik - 21.5 1 gravel pits north of Birezik - 23.5 6 Göksu Delta - 24,5 4 Tuzla Creek.

2006: 14.5 30 Göksu Delta – 24.5 1 Birezik – 25.5 6 Birezik (south of the bridge) – 25.5 7 Birezik (north of the bridge, along western shores of River Euphrates).

2007: 14.5 15 Akgöl, Göksu Delta – 15.5 20 Göksu Delta – 24.5 15 Gravel pits, Birezik – 26.5 2 Tuzla Gölü S of Adana.

Patchlily distributed in lowlands of S Turkey. Found in dry areas with low scrubs near water. The song is an insect-like rattling, constantly repeated from top of low scrub.

221. **Zitting Cisticola** *Cisticola juncidis* **Cistussanger**

2005: 23.5 2 Göksu Delta.

In Central Turkey, mainly restricted to the delta areas of Göksu, Ceyhan/Tarsus, where found in open, grassy areas with scattered bushes.

222. **Savi´s Warbler** *Locustella luscinoides* **Savisanger**
2007: 14.5 3 singing Akgöl, Göksu Delta.

223. **Cetti´s Warbler** *Cettia cetti* **Cettisanger**
2005: 13.5 1 Cucurbak - 16.5 7 Gelinkaya - 21.5 3 marshes along Euphrates south of Birezik - 23.5 2 Göksu Delta.
2006: 18.5 1 Gödker – 18.5 6 Gelinkaya – 18.5 1 Maden Köprubasi – 23.5 1 Van-Tatvan – 24.5 2 Birezik.
2007: 15.51 Camardi – 17.5 4 Sarkisla-Sivas – 17.5 1 Sivas-Kizilham Gecedi – 17.5 2 Kizilham Gecedi-Erzinzan – 18.5 2 Altunkent-Askale- 18.5 4 Gelinkaya – 18.5 2 Yoncalic-Maden Köprubasi – 18.5 3 Maden Köprubasi – 21.5 2 Bendimahi, Van Gölü – 22.5 1 Tatvan-Baykan – 23.5 1 Karadut – 24.5 2 Hotel Euphrates, Karadut – 24.5 1 Karadut – 25.5 1 Birezik – 25.5 1 Birezik-Halfeti.

224. **Sedge Warbler** *Achrcephalus schoenebaenus* **Sivsanger**
2005: 19.5 3 Erzek Gölü - 20.5 1 South van Marshes.
2006: 21.5 1 Kars – 22-23.5 daily max. 10 South Van Marshes, Van.
2007: 18.5 1 Rize (migrating bird, hitting a window at the hotel restaurantbefore settling off after recovering!) – 20.5 2 Ardahan – 24.5 4 Grael Pits, Birezik.

225. **Moustached Warbler** *Acrocephalus melanopogon* **Tamarisksanger**
2007: 14.5 1 Akgöl, Göksu Delta – 16.5 3 Seniköy, Sultan Sazligi – 25.5 1 River Euphrates S of Birezik.
Scarce breeder, found in reed-beeds and lake-shores, canals etc, where open water intermix with extensive vegetation. Traditional sites areGöksu Delta, Sultan Sazligi (especially the canal along the road east of Ovaciftlik, at Seniköy (site 6 in Gosney 1991), Erzek Gölü (incl. small marsh south of the main road) and reed beeds along the shores of Van Gölu, especially in the south.

226. **Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus fuscus* **Rørsanger**
Common in reed beeds and well vegetated lake-sides throughout.
2005: Most noted 13.5 15 Göksu Delta - 15.5 7 Sultan Marshes - 19.5 5 Erzek Gölü - 20.5 6 South Van Marshes - 21.5 9 Eufrat south of Birezik - 24,5 10 Tarsus West Delta.
2006: 14.5 3 Göksu Delta – 22-23.5 daily max. 3 South Van Marshes – 24.5 1 Birezik – 25.5 14 Birezik.
2007: 14.5 25 Akgöl, Göksu Delta – 15.5 10 Göksu Delta – 16.5 20 Sultan Sazligi – 21.5 20 Sim Er Hotel, Dogubayazit – 21.5 10 Bendimahi - 24.5 10 gravel pits, Birezik – 25.5 50 River Euphrates S of Birezik – 26.5 20 gravel pits, Birezik – 26.5 8 Havutlu – 26.5 2 Tuzla Gölü-Adana.
The ssp. *fuscus* is averagely less warm tinged in upperparts than *scirpaceus* with sandy rump, sometimes hardly differing from greyish-brown upperparts. The underside is averagely paler with at most slightly yellowish-buff suffusion to underparts (warmer buffish in *scirpaceus*), and the primaries generally more contrasting pale edges than *scirpaceus* (the latter maybe caused by generally later primary moult in winter (Dunn 2001), and thus looks intermediate between Reed and March Warbler. Many birds showed a contrasting greyer hindneck, at most rare in *scirpaceus* and Marsh Warbler There is a good deal of individual variation, with *fuscus*-looking birds frequently observed in Northern Europe, but we did not observe any as warm-looking in Turkey than the majority of *scirpaceus* from Northern Europe. *Scirpaceus* breeds in western part of Turkey, but

wihin the range visited on out trip, the majority will show characters of *fuscus.* Certain birds from western part of the range (Göksu, Sultan Sazligi) has slightly warmer tinge to upperparts and flanks, matching *scirpaceus* (Roselaar 1995, Pearson et al. 2002, own obs.).
Establishing this taxon to a species of its own, as proposed by the Dutch CSNA is a very optimistic treatmens of a taxon, which even DNA-wise does not differ that much from its look-alike!

227. **Marsh Warbler** *Acrocephalus palustris* **Kærsanger**
2005: 16.5 3 Gelinkaya.
2006: 18.5 1 Gelinkaya – 22.5 3 Sim Er Hotel, Dogubayazit.
2007: 18.5 4 Gelinkaya.
Unidentifyed Reed/Marsh Warblers: 22.5 2006 10 and 21.5 2007 25 Sim Er Hotel, Dogubayazit.

228. **Paddyfield Warbler** *Acrocephalus agricola* **Lille Rørsanger**
2005: 19.5 3 and 20.5 6 South Van Marshes, Van.
2006: 22.5 5 South Van Marshes, Van – 23.5 5 singing South Van Marshes, Van.
2007: 21.5 1 Bendimahi, Van Gölü.
An eastern species with a very restricted breeding range in Turkey. Locally common Van Gölu, where found in low patches of broken reeds in extensive wet meadows, a few also singing in reed beds. In 2005, a group of 5 noted together in a patch of low, dead and broken reeds in an area of low sedges and grass (a habit also noted by Ortvad 2004). A similar habit of occuring in small groups was noted in the steppe lakes of Kasakhstan in June 1989 (own obs.).
South van Marshes is the traditional site, but recently, a number have been found also at the small lake south of Ercek Gölü, at Erzek Gölu and in Bendimahi Marshes. To be looked for in similar habitat along Van Gölü and in the wetlands of the east, probably best around Ardahan, Kars and Idgir area west of Mount Ararat, as the habitat here looked promising.

229. **Great Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* **Drosselrørsanger**
Common in extensive areas of tall reeds along lake-sides.
2005: Most 13.5 3 Lake Akgol, Göksu Delta - 19.5 3 Erzek Gölu – 19.5 5 South Van Marshes - 20.5 5 South Van Marshes - 21.5 30 Eufrat south of Birezik - 24.5 15 Tarsus West Delta - 24.5 10 Tuzla Creek.
2006: most 14.5 5 Göksu Delta – 17.5 3 Sultan Sazligi – 22.5 3 Bendimahi Marshes, Vaan Gölü – 22-23.5 daily max. 10 South Van Marshes – 23.5 1 Van-Tatvan – 25.5 22 Birezik.
2007: 14.5 8 Akgöl, Göksu Delta – 15.5 6 Göksu Delta – 16.5 15 Sultan Sazligi – 21.5 30 Bendimahi – 22.5 3 Baykan-Batman – 24.5 2 Gravel pits, Birezik – 25.5 4 River Euphrates S of Birezik – 26.5 1 Gravel pits, Birezik.

230. **Eastern Olivaceous Warbler** *Hippolais pallida eleica* **Østlig Bleg Gulbug**
Common in the south, more sparsely distributed in the north, but noted throughout..
2005: Most noted 21,5 40 "Ibis Wadi", Birezik - 21.5 >20 Eufrat south of Birezik - 22.5 4 Durnalik (mentioned here, as occurence doubted for the area by Ortvad 2004). Scarce in the far East with singles noted Ishik Pasa and Van Hills (but 20.5 3 South Van Marshes). Not noted from the Pontic mountains and in the NE; an isolated observation in slightly higher elevation than would be expected made 15.5 Kayseri. 24.5 a pair with two youngs Tuzla Creek.
2006: Most 15.5 10 Demircili – 24.5 6 Birezik – 25-26.5 daily max. 20 “Ibis Wadi”, Birezik – 25.5 6 Birezik fruit plantations – 25.5 20 Birezik (north of the bridge, at western shore og river Euphrates) – 25.5 13 Birezik fruit plantations. 22.5 12 Dogubayazit probably involved migrants.

2007: Most 14.5 5 Mersin-Erdemli – 14.5 5 Mezbahane – 15.5 6 Demirzili – 16.5 4 Elmali – 21.5 10 Sim Er Hotel, Dogubayazit – 22.5 5 Suceke, Raman Dagi – 24.5 7 Birezik – 25.5 5 Isik Restaunant, Birezik – 25.5 5 Birezik plantations.

A characteristic, widely distributed warbler of flat and hilly, well vegetated areas, preferring dense scrub with bushes; gardens and open wood; also in gardens. Generally at lower elevations up to 1700 m... Rather non-descript, being similar-shaped and sized to to Reed Warbler with olive-tinged upperparts, whitish underparts, shorter primary projection than Upcher´s and especially Olive-tree warblers and long bill with pale lower mandible. At most shows a very faint pale panel across secondaries. Constantly moved tail downwards. Song at distance similar to Reed Warbler, but often with 4-5 tones constantly repeated in a cyclic manner, appearing playfull (but to a lesser degree than in the notorious "happy" and variegated song of Melodious Warbler *H. polyglotta* of the Western Mediterranean!). Compare Upcher´s Warbler below. For ID from its smaller relatives from farther east, and of other taxa of Olivaceous Warbler, see Svensson 2001.

231. **Olive-tree Warbler** *Hippolais olivetorum* **Olivensanger**
2005: 23.5 2 Demircili (upper cemetary) - 23.5 2 Imamli.
2006: 14.5 1 Göksu Delta – 15.5 1 Demircili (upper cemetary).
2007: 15.5 1 Imamli – 23.5 1 Karadut.

The largest warbler apart from Great Reed Warbler. A large and slender, mainly greyish warbler with orange-yellow lower mandible and broad pale panel across secondaries (if not too worn, which is not the case in winter/spring). The song is remarkable similar to Great Reed Warbler, especially at distance, at closer range appears more varied.

Occurs at lower latitudes (<1000 m) along W and S coastline of Turkey in well vegetated areas such as gardens, ochyards, oak-woods and plantations. Resticted to the Mediterranean area, and does not appear east of Iskenderun. Several pairs breeds Narince near Nemrud Dagi, Adiyaman (Occhiato 2001, Hendriks 2004, Gerdin et al. 2005). 1000-10.000 pairs breeds Turkey (Tucker & Heath 1995).

Within the treated area, most occurs north of Silifke. The villages Demircili and Imamli are good spots, especially the upper cemetary and the large pines at Demircili. After 20 May, most of the population of this late arriving species in present. Another good area is further to the N, at Uzuncaburg. Demircili/Imamli and Uzuncabare (Uzuncaburg) is reached from Silifke. In the large roundabout take road N towards Kirobasi for some km´s, then turn right at sign “Uzuncabare/Diocaesan 28. After 10 km.´s Demircili is reached. At the upper edge of the village a small parking lot is found opposite to the cemetary. The cemeraty itself as well as the large trees further to the W are good spots for Olive-tree Warbler (as well as Eastern Orphean). If missed here, try the next village (Imamli) or the serpentive road leading to Uzunzabare.

More common to the W, e.g. at Acekli between Silifke and Antalya, where as many as 50 noted June 2002 (Ortvad 2002).

232. **Upcher´s Warbler** *Hippolais languida* **Levantgulbug**
2005: 21.5 2 "Ibis Wadi", Birezik - 22.5 3 Isikli - 22.5 15 Durnalik.
2006: 23.5 3 Karabache near Diyarbakir – 24.5 2 Nemrut Dagi – 25-26.5 3 „Ibis Wadi“, Birezik.
2007: 21.5 1 Sim Er Hotel, Dogubayazit – 23.5 3 Karadut -24.5 3 Karadut – 24.5 5 Nemrut Dagi – 24.5 1 Birezik – 25.5 1 Birezik plantations.

Size and jizz intermediate between Eastern Olivaceous Warbler and Olive-tree Warbler. Larger and greyer than Eastern Olivaceous Warbler with slightly paler panel across secondaries, slightly longer primary projection and darker tail. Before landing, frequently spreads tail and lowers legs. Frequently moves tail sideways, lightly spread, not dissimilar to the tail movements of

Menetries´Warbler, but less extreme. Song more varied than in Eastern Olivaceous, but with similar cyclic repititions, often appearing fuller in tone (similar to Nightingale) or even with thrush-like repetitions vaguely recalling Blyth´s Reed Warbler (if Eastern Olivaceous have a song similar to Reed, and Olive-tree to Great Reed, there is more a touch of Marsh Warbler to the song of Upcher´s).

Breeds in maquis with orchards, plantations, almond growth, and in scrubby hill-sides with bushes. In areas occuring alongside Eastern Olivaceous, generally appears in dryer, more sloping areas at slightly higher elevations.

Distributed in a narrow area between Göksu and Diyarbakir, northwards to at least Nemrut Dagi, Adiyaman. Also an apparently isolated population in SE Turkey (Cramp 1992, Occhiato 2001).

233. **Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus* **Løvsanger**
2005: 16.5 3 Gelinkaya - 19.5 1 Ishak Pasa - 19.5 1 South Van Marshes - 21.5 1 "Ibis Wadi", Birezik. - 22.5 4 Isikli - 24.5 1 Tuzla Creek.
2006: 14.5 1 Göksu Delta – 19.5 1 Izikdere – 22.5 15 Sim Er Hotel, Dogubayazit.

Many observers (e.g. Kristensen 1999) have been surprised by observing Willow Warblers in Turkey, where is not breeding. This is easily explained by migration: In the Mediterranean area, passage generally passes mid March to mid May, latest in the East; but in the Gulf States, passage onto mid June, and at Eilat the late peak as late as 20 May with rearguards 12-18.6 (Cramp 1992, Shirihai 1996). These birds are probably representives of the northernmost breeders, as in several other "non breeding species" observed well into June.

234. **Eastern Bonelli´s Warbler** *Phylloscopus orientalis* **Østlig Bjergløvsanger**
2005: 21.5 1 at the "Owl Café", Birezik.

Normally only observed Western Turkey, from sea-level to 1700 m. in forest of oach, birches and beeches as well as fir forest (Cramp 1988), but should occur eastwards to Silifke.

235. **Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita abietinus* **Gransanger**
2005: 17.5 3 Ardahan - 19.5 2 South Van Marshes.
2006: 14.5 1 Göksu Delta – 22.5 3 Sim Er Hotel, Dogubayazit.
2007: 21.5 2 Sim Er Hotel, Dogubayazit.

Breeds disjuncted in Turkey, with population in the W and N (to Samsun) isolated from eastern breeding range in Caucasus and adjacent hills (Cramp & Brooks 1992).

236. **Mountain Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus sindianus lorenzi* **Bjerggransanger**
2005: 16.5 8 Gelinkaya - 16.5 1 Iskipolat.
2006: 17.5 2 singing Karhan – 18.5 6 Gelinkaya – 19.5 1 Sivri Kaya.
2007: 17.5 1 singing Dayidiresi near Sivas – 18.5 20 Gelinkaya – 18.5 3 Yoncalic.

Similar to Siberian Chiffchaff (Chiffchaff of the greyish Eastern taxon *tristis*), but generally darker and browner with upperparts browner (especially scapulars) and duller brownish-white underparts. Head pattern generally different; have broad whitish supercilium, being prominent before and above the eye (where broadest) to slightly behind the eye, and sometimes joins over base of bill (this pattern rare in Chiffchaff). Legs and bill black; bill often looks small and short, frequently with paler tinge to base of paler mandible.

Song similar to western Chiffchaff, but generally higher-pitched and mellower, often includes an extra tone: like " cilf- cilp - calp - cilp-cilp-calp" or "ti ti ty - ti-ti-ty" with last tone being lower than the two first. Certain individuals performed a song rather similar to Chiffchaff taxon *tristus*, being more cyclical and complex than in western birds.

In Turkey restricted to the NE Pontic mountains from Erzinzan and eastwards; the status of the birds in the N Turkish mountains further to the west poorly known. Ocurs in small overlap zone in Caucasus with Chiffchaff, where Mountain found at higher elevations. Here the two behaves as different species (Cramp & Brooks 1992).

Found in dense willow scrubs and mixed forest (esp. with poplars and tamarisk) in sloping areas near streams and rivers, between 1700 and 3000 m. Gelinkaya is the easiest spot – the species is a character bird here, and plentiful in willow scrubs along the river. Another good site is Sivri Kaya west of the river, where populations locally are dense.

Note. Chiffchaff also said to breed at Gelinkaya (Shirihai 1987, Cramp 1992). The 2006 observation in the willow forests at 2000 m. at Karhan, and in 2007 near Sivas indicates that the species may be more well-spread than generally regarded. The observations were made in a habitat that looked promising for the species – it indeed was.

237. **Green Warbler** *Phylloscopus nitidus* **Grøn Sanger**

2005: 16.5 2 Sivri Kaya - 16.5 1 Izikdere - 17.5 2 Hotel Genesiz, Ikizdere - 17.5 1 Hopa - Borcka.
2006: 18-20.5 daily max. 4 Izikdere – 19.5 2 Sivri Kaya – 20.5 1 Hopa – 20.5 1 Borcka.
2007: 18.5 3 Ikizdere – 19.5 3 Hopa – 19.5 1 Cam Gecedi.

Similar to Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilodes* (and othen regarded as a ssp. of this species), but generally greener in upperparts (the brighest coloured almost as green as Wood Warbler *P. sibilatrix*), and yellow in supercilium, face and breast. There is variation on these points, and the brightest birds have entire face to breast yellowish (colour similar to juvenile Blue Tit or even Wood Warbler), others are duller olive-tinged in upperparts with barely any yellow, apart from parts of supercilium and ear-coverts. The wing-bar is generally broader than in Greenish Warbler.

Song very similar to Greenish Warbler. Call similar to Greenish Warbler (tse-li, somewhat similar to call of White Wagtail), but often includes an extra tone, thus appearing three-toned ."tse-tsi-ly". This is evident when experience the larger wintering population at Goa, India (following studies of Greenish Warbler days before in Rhajastan, India, as done by KMO Oct.-Nov 2004).

Breeds NE Turkey in the Pontic mountains between 900 and 3000 m. Found in spruce, mixed or decidious forest, often dense and rather old with clearings, patches of birches and bushes. Often near rivers. Probably widespreds from Trabzon and towards the NE. To the west, there are records westwards to northwest of Ankara, but the westernmost reliable site is Suleima Monastery (see "The Gen"). However, the population is densier further to the east, such as between Sivri Kaya and Izikdere (e.g. around village of Sivri Kaya on both sides of the river). According to disturbance from streaming river, easiest away from the stream itself, such as valleys and woodland at Izikdere, e.g. easily found around Hotel Genesiz, Izikdere. Otherwise widespread, e.g. among the commoner singing passerines around Hopa.

238. **Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus* **Fuglekonge**

2005: 14.5 1 Kalki Dag.
2006: 18-20.5 daily max. 20 Izikdere.
2007: 18.5 4 Ikizdere – 18.5 1 Ikizdere-Rize – 19.5 3 Cam Gecedi.

239. **Grey Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata* **Grå Fluesnapper**

2005: 16.5 3 Gelinkaya - 19.5 3 South Van Marshes.
2006: 14.5 2 Göksu Delta – 18.5 1 Gelinkaya – 19.5 1 Kalkandere – 22.5 5 Sim Er Hotel, Dogubayazit – 24.5 1 Nemrut Dagi.
2007: 14.5 1 Akgöl, Göksu Delta - 16.5 1 Sultan Sazligi – 24.5 2 Nemrut Dagi.

240. **Semi-collared Flycatcher** *Ficedula semitorquata* **Balkanfluesnapper**
2007: 16.5 1 singing Elmali between Cucurbak and Kavdarli.
1000-10 000 pairs breed Turkey (Tucker & Heath 1995). Found in hilly areas with plantations, orchards, and in mixed forests with dominance of poplar, ash, oak, alder; locally in fir forest. Mainly observed in Pontic Mountain valleys, especially Coruh valley between Ispir and Artvin, and at Gelinkaya.
Both Pied and Collared Flycatcher *F. Hypoleuca/collaris* occurs on migration in Turkey, but neither breeds.

241.**Great Tit** *Parus major* **Musvit**
Widespread and rather common in woodland and gardens.
2005: Most 13.5 2 Camardi - 14.5 5 Kalki Dag - 21.5 2 Birezik.
2006: Most 18.5 10 Ispir – 19.5 2 Kalkandere – 20.5 3 Hopa – 20.5 3 Borcka – 25.5 2 Birezik.
2007: Most 15.5 4 Pozanti-Demirkazik – 15.5 3 Pinarbasi – 19.5 3 Gelinkaya- 24.5 2 Nemrut Dagi-Kahta – 25.5 3 Birezik plantations – 25.5 2 River Euphrates S of Birezik 26.5 2 Havultu.

242. **Blue Tit** *Parus cauruleus* **Blåmejse**
2005: 16.5 1 Gelinkaya - 17.5 2 Hopa.
2006: 18.5 4 Gelinkaya – 19.5 1 Izikdere – 20.5 3 Hopa.
2007: 15.5 1 Cucurbak – 17.5 1 Kizilham Gecedi-Erzinzan – 18.5 1 Gelinkaya – 18.5 2 Yoncalic.
Birds from E Turkey probably belongs to ssp. *satunini* (E Transcaucaci and NW Iran); possibly *persicus* occurs in the SE). *Satunini* identifyed from *caeruleus* (Europe) by slightly paler, less green-grey saturated mantle and slightly paler yellow underparts. Differences more fronounced in ssp. *persicus* (Cramp & Perrins 1993).

243. **Coal Tit** *Parus ater* **Sortmejse**
2005: 13.5 3 Pozanti - 14.5 7 Kalki Dag - 16.5 1 Ikizdere - 17.5 3 Ikizdere - 17.5 2 Ardahan
2006: 15.5 2 Demircili – 15.5 2 Alaban Restaurant, Mut –17.5 1 Karhan – 18-20.5 daily max. 15 Izikdere – 20.5 6 Cam Gecedi.
2007: 15.5 2 Pozanti-Demirkazik – 17.5 2 Kizilham Gecedi-Erzinzan – 18.5 2 Sivri Kaya – 18.5 10 Ikizdere -19.5 20 Cam Gecedi.
Birds from the NE belongs to ssp. *derjugini*, which have mantle and scapulars with faint olive tinge, cleaner grey underparts and heavier bill than *ater* (Europe and W Turkey) (Cramp & Perrins 1993).

244. **Sombre Tit** *Parus lugubris anatoliae* **Sørgemejse**
2005: 22.5 2 Isikli - 22.5 4 Durnalik - 23.5 2 Demirzili - 23.5 4 (pair with two youngs) Imamli.
2006: 24.5 8 Nemrut Dagi.
2007: 15.5 3 Demirzili – 15.5 2 Imamli – 23.5 3 Karadut – 24.5 4 Nemrut Dagi.
The ssp. *anatoliae* is similar to the nominate form, but have blacker crown and throat; more brownish-tinged tin nominate from Balkans (Svensson 1992).
Breeds on well vegetated slopes with mixed wood, often patches of fir forest and near gardens and orchards.

245. **Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus tephronotus* **Halemejse**
2005: 13.5 4 Pozanti - 14.5 2 Maden Koprunasi.
2007: 24.5 2 Nemrut Dagi.

Ssp. *tephronotus* is much duller than European birds and generally have shorter tail. Shows broader black head-streak than *europaeus*, with a black bib, rather dark grey upperparts and extensive dark streaking in underbody.

246. **Penduline Tit** *Remiz pendulinus* **Pungmejse**
2005: 16.5 2 Gelinkaya - 19.5 1 Ishak Pasa.
2006: 18.5 4 (of which 2 males) Gelinkaya.

247. **Bearded Tit** *Panurus biarmicus* **Skægmejse**
2007: 14.5 2 Akgöl, Göksu Delta.

248. **Common Tree-creeper** *Certhia familiaris* **Træløber**
2006: 20.5 1 Cam Gecedi.
2007: 19.5 1 Cam Gecedi.

249. **Short-toed Tree-creeper** *Certhia brachydactyla* **Korttået Træløber**
2006: 19.5 1 Kalkandere.
2007: 17.5 1 Dayisiresi near Sivas.

250. **Krüper´s Nuthatch** *Sitta krueperi* **Krüpers Spætmejse**
2005: 23.5 4 Imamli, at the pine forest immediately south of the village.
2006: 15.5 1 Demircili – 15.5 2 (of which one male) Alaban Restaurant 10 km. North of Mut – 20.5 3 (of which a pair in nest box) Cam Gecedi.
2007: 19.5 2 Cam Gecedi.
Found in conifereous forest, especially pine forest (of *Pinus brutus*) in slightly hilly country, mainly 1000-2500 m., but frequently down to 500 m.
Breeds around approximately western half of Turkey, with a population in Pontic Mountains probably seperated from the southern population. The birds at Cam Gecedi are found in the forest at a military checkpoint. Here, show the soldiers your bird-guide, and you are normally allowed to walk at a track for some hundreds meters. This is the site. In 2006 we found a pair in a nest-box, which in 2007 was overtaken by Common Redstart.
10.000-100.000 pairs breeds Turkey (Tucker & Heath 1995).

251. **Rock Nuthatch** *Sitta neumayer* **Klippespætmejse**
2005: 14.5 2 Cimbar Bogazi, Demirkazik - 14.5 2 near entrance to Demirkazik Gorge (pair with nest) - 18.5 5 Ishak Pasa (incl. nesting pair) - 22.5 3 Isikli - 23.5 1 Aphroditias.
2006: 16.5 1 Cimbar Bogazi, Demirkazik – 16.5 2 Kalki Dag – 18.5 1 Mercan-Askale – 18.5 1 Maden Köprubasi – 21.5 2 Halikisla – 21-22.5 daily max. 6 Ishak Pasa (of which pair with nest).
2007: 14.5 10 Mezabahane – 15.5 1 (with nest and pullus) Imamli – 15.5 1 Demirkazik – 17.5 1 Cöl Gölu - 17.5 Kizilham Gecedi-Erzinzan – 18.5 2 Altunkent-Askale -20.5 6 Halikisla – 20.5 2 Ishak Pasa – 21.5 1 Sogoksu -24.5 2 Karadut.
Breeds in dry, rocky and sunny slopes and wadis with stands of large, isolated rocks, and just low vegetation. Found up to 2100 m., but frequent down to sea-level. Turkish population 50.000-500.000 pairs (Tucker & Heath 1995). .

252. **Eastern Rock Nuthatch** *Sitta tephoronota* **Østlig Klippespætmejse**
2005: 22.5 1 Isikli - 22.5 3 Durnalik.
2006: 24.5 7 Nemrut Dagi.

2007: 22.5 3 Sucete, Raman Dagi – 22.5 2 wadi north of Oyali – 23.5 1 Akcesta Gecedi between Mardin and Diyarbakir -23.5 2 Karadut -24.5 2 Hotel Euphrates, Karadut – 24.5 2 Karadut – 24.5 5 Nemrut Dagi – 25.5 4 Halfeti.

Larger than Rock Nuthatch with longer and heavier bill and broader, more angular black line behind eye; from sides, the width and angling is surprising easy to see and gives a reminiscence to a Badger! In flight, the combination of long strong bill and bluish upperparts creates an association to a miniature kingfisher - an association I never get in Rock or Common Nuthatch. The flanks and under tail-coverts often shows a buffish to rusty tinge; this may however be weak, and in least patterned birds, it matches the slightly sandy tinge of Rock Nuthatch.

Breeds in similar habit as Rock Nuthatch, but often in slightly flatter areas with smaller rocks, and generallly more stands of vegetation (often seen creeping in top of bushes, which is rare in Rock Nuthatch). Resularly performs "rubberball hopping" between large rocks. The deeper and more far-cryng call than in Rock bears reminiscence to a small gamebird.

Local in Turkey, where Isikli/Durnalik area might form an isolated patch from the Nemrut Dagi population near Adiyaman. Rather common Halfeti north of Birezik. More widespread in the SE and E (from SE of Diyarbakir/Batman towards the east, such as between Hasankeyf and Cizre, and SE of Lake Van (hillside opposite the railway at Van hills (max. 8, Bonser 2004), Hakkari area; noted N to Dogubayazit).

253. **Red-backed Shrike** *Lanius cullorio* **Rødrygget Tornskade**

Common at the start of the tours where many migrants involved. Otherwise observed throughout.
2005. Most 13.5 14 Akgöl, Göksu Delta (many migrants) - 13.5 10 Göksu Delta - 15.5 30 Sultan Sazligi. In the north and east only few, most 19.5 7 and 20.5 5 South Van Marshes. Scarce 23-24,5 in areas where many were seen 13-14.5, which indicates that many migrants involved.
2006: Most 14.5 30 Göksu Delta- 16.5 4 Demirkazik – 17.5 20 Sultan Sazligi – 17.5 7 Kayseri-Sarkisla.
2007: Most 14.5 110 Akgöl, Göksu Delta – 15.5 6 Göksu Delta – 16.5 85 Sultan Sazligi – 16.5 25 Ovaciftlik – 17.5 8 Kayseri-Sarkisla. Scarcer in the north and east, most 20.5 3 Sogoksu – 22.5 3 Hasankeyf-Midyat.

254. **Red-headed Shrike** *Lanius senator niloticus* **Rødhovedet Tornskade**

2005: 19.5 1 male Erzek Gölü - 22.5 2 Durnalik.
2006: 24.5 8 Nemrut Dagi – 24.5 1 Atatürk Barasi – 24.5 6 Atatürk Barasi-Sanli Urfa – 24.5 2 Sanli Urfa-Birezik.
2007: 14.5 1 male Mezbahane – 22.5 2 Idil-Mardin – 23.5 3 Buzak – 23.5 1 male Karadut – 23.5 3 Nemrut Dagi – 24.5 3 Karadut – 24.5 5 Nemrut Dagi -24.5 3 Atatürk Baraji-Sanliavsar – 25.5 3 Birezik-Halfeti.

Ssp. *niloticus* differs from *senator* (south European mainland to W Turkey) in larger white flash at base of primaries (in males 17-21 mm. p beyond primary coverts (10-16 in *senator*), broader white base to tail, and whiter underparts with restricted amount of pinkish or buff in flanks. Males often shows complete black forehead (normally some white in European birds). Further differences are complete body boult in all ages in autumn; *senator* 1 years then in juvenile plumage (Lefranc & Worfolk 1997, own obs.).

255. **Masked Shrike** *Lanius nubicus* **Masketornskade**

2005: 13.5 2 males Göksu Delta - 23.5 3 Demirzili - 23.5 2 Imamli - 24.5 3 Tarsus Delta West
2006: 15.5 2 Demircili – 15.5 2 Mut-Karaman.
2007: 15.5 1 Demirzili – 15.5 1 male Imamli – 26.5 1 Tuzla Gölü S of Adana..

Breeds in Turkey in the warm Mediterranean zone in Western Turkey and in the southern part of Anatolia - mainly follows the Mediterranean, but with isolated small population in the SE. Breeds mainly in small woods and plantations of e.g. citrus and olives, thus preferring more well vegetated areas than other shrikes apart from Red-backed. Bird seen in more arid areas may be migrants. Turkish population estimated to 5000-50.000 pairs.

256. **Lesser Grey Shrike** *Lanius minor* **Rosenbrystet Tornskade**
Widespread and common in warm open country, especially in Central Anatolia. Scarce in the east. 2005: Largest numbers 13.5 15 Akgöl, Göksu Delta - 13.5 9 Göksu Delta - 15.5 38 Kayseri - Sariskla - 15.5 13 Sariskla - Sivas. Scarcer in the east, with 18.5 11 between Halikista and Tuzlea and 18.5 4 Serpmetas as the largest numbers, but mainly singletons observed the rest of the tour, indicating a fall of migrants 13.5 (as largely absent from same areas 23-24.5, as seen in Red-backed Shrike).
2006: Widespread in open landscape, most 14.5 4 Göksu Delta – 17.5 6 Sultan Sazligi – 17.5 20 Kayseri-Sarkisla – 17.5 6 Kayseri-Sivas – 17.5 17 Sivas-Kizildag Gecedi – 18.5 10 Erzinzan-Mercan.
2007. Fewer than in 2005-2006, especially in central West. Most 14.5 2 Akgöl, Göksu Delta – 15.5 2 Göksu Delta – 16.5 6 Sultan Sazligi – 17.5 3 Sarkisla-Sivas – 21.5 6 Patnos-Bulanik – 21.5 4 Bulanik.

257. **Iraq Babbler** *Turdoides altirostris* **Irak Larmdrossel**
2007: 24.5 6 (pair with 4 recently fledged youngs) Gravel Pits, Birezik.
Following the recent spread along River Euphrates into Jordan, with breeding as close as 15 km. south of the border (Hofland & Saveyn 2006), the species was first observed May 2006 at Birezik, where is bred in the Gravel Pits, and also seen along River Euphrates south of the town in June (Goosens 2006).
The breeding site in 2007 was a swampy, green area with high reeds and lush undercover. It is close to “site 11” in Gosney (1991). *Direction*: Immediately W of hotel Mirkelam, a road leads towards “Isik Restaurant”. The this road, which passes the gravel works, and forks at exactly 2 km. The left fork borders fields, whereas the right fork have marshy areas on both sides. Just where two electric line crosses is the breeding site. Following breeding it appears that the birds spread over a slightlt larger area. They keep rather skulky, making the twitch rather time-consulpting. We fould the birds after waiting for an hour. On the morning of 26 May we sped two hours without result, but the birds have been observed regularly by patient birders up to mid June (Hans Rudne, Chriss Lansdell in e-mail).
The species is slightly smaller than Arabian Babbler., looking rather nondescript sandy with slight brown streaking in crown and mantle and dark, curved bill. The rather skulky behaviour it not shared by other WP babbalers, but is similar to the swamp-ling babblers of India, e.g.Striated Babbler.

258. **Common Magpie** *Pica pica* **Husskade**
Widespread, but scarce throughout. Most 17.5 2006 32 Sultan Sazligi - 17.5 20 Kayseri-Sarkisla. 2007: Most 16.5 20 Sultan Sazligi.

259. **Eurasian Jay** *Garrulus glandarius anatoliae* **Skovskade**
2005: 17.5 1 Deperapazi.

2006: 14.5 1 Adana-Silifke – 15.5 1 Silifke – 15.5 2 Imamli – 15.5 1 Imamli-Mut – 15.5 2 north of Mut – 18.5 2 Erzinzan-Mercan – 18.5 3 Ispir - 19.5 1 Sivri Kaya – 19.5 1 Sivri Kaya-Kalkandere – 20.5 1 Cam Gecedi – 23.5 3 Van-Tatvan.
2007: 14.5 1 Silifke -15.5 1 Silifke – 15.5 2 Demirzili – 15.5 1 Göksu Delta-Mersin – 17.5 1 Kizilham Gecedi-Erzinzan – 18.5 1 Maden Köprubasi-Ovitdagi Gecedi – 19.5 2 Hopa – 22.5 1 Idil-Mardin.
The ssp. *anatoliae* belongs to to *atricapilla*-group, which are characterizised by black crown, whitish head and rather pale brown upperparts.

260. **Red-billed Chough** *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax* **Alpekrage**
2005: 14.5 20 Demirkazik (medium to lower part) - 14.5 10 Kalki Dag - 16.5 1 Sivri Kaya - 18.5 2 Ishak Pasa - 19.5 2 Ishak Pasa.
2006: 16.5 27 Demirkazik – 16.5 20 Cucurbak – 16.5 50 Kalki Dag – 19.5 5 Sivri Kaya – 21.5 1 Halikisla – 21-22.5 daily max. 20 Ishak Pasa.
2007: 15.5 20 Yclatan between Pozanti and Demirkazik – 15.5 20 Demirkazik – 15.5 15 Pinarbasi – 16.5 15 Cimbar Bogazi, Demirkazik – 16.5 15 Cucurbak-Elmali – 18.5 2 Sivri Kaya – 20.5 3 Ishak Pasa – 21.5 1 Tendürek Gecedi.
Breeds in mountains with steep cliffs, generally 1200-3000 (or even hgher) m in Central Anatolia, Pontic Mountains and in mountain regions of the east; populations are thus well separated from each other. Population 5000-50.000 pairs (Tucker & Heath 1994).

261. **Alpine Chough** *Pyrrhocorax graculus* **Alpeallike**
2005: 14.5 60 Cimbar Bogazi, Demirkazik.
2006: 16.5 6 Cimbar Bogazi, Demirkazik – 19.5 2 Ovitdagi Gecedi.
2007: 16.5 4 Cimbar Bogazi, Demirkazi - 18.5 2 Maden Köprubasi-Ovitdagi Gecedi.
Breeds in high, barren mountains, where seen in flocks highest up. Distribution similar to Red-billed Chough, but avoids lower altitudes, and probably do not occur <1500 (2000) m.
Even when red bill not observed, easily identified by wing shape and tail; Apine has shape not dissimilar to Jackdaw, Red-billed with much squarer, rectangular wings with striking broad hand and shorter tail, thus having a shape of its own.

262. **Common Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula* **Allike**
Common throughout.
2005: Most 15.5 40 Sivas - 17.5 30 Ardahan - 17.5 30 Cildir - 17.5 100 Aktas Gölü - 18.5 30 Kars - - 20.5 215 South Van Marshes - 21.5 100 Kars-Halikisla.
2006: Most 18.5 35 Erzinzan-Mercan – 21.5 60 Ardahan-Kars – 22.5 40 South Van Marshes.
2007: Most 17.5 70 Altunkent-Askale – 17.5 35 Askale – 19-20.5 daily max. 100 Ardahan – 20.5 90 Ardahan-Kars.
Compared to South Scandinavian breeders, Turkish birds generally shows paler grey sides to head, and are sometimes included in ssp. *soemmeringii* (e.g. by Svensson 1992). What I call "true" *soemmerringii* in winter in south Scandinavia would, however show a full broad white crescent behind paler grey head-sides, which was not observed in Turkey, where the birds reminded of the palest *monedula* seen in winter in South Scandinavia (these birds probably from Finland and eastwards). In Central Anatolia, about 20% with traces of white collar, but never strong; in E Anatolia, most shows traces of white collar, in some strong.
Turkish population sometimes referred to as *pontocaspius* (but not warranted by Cramp & Perrins 1994).

263. **Rook** *Corvus frugilegus* **Råge**
Common in agricultural landscape Central and Eastern Anatolia, often in large colonies.
2005: Most 15.5 15 Kayseri - 15.5 20 Sivas - Bezirkas - 16,5 65 Ersinzan - 17.5 70 Baskarschmak (several in breeding colonies) - 18.5 30 Kars (coloni) - 18.5 30 Igdir - 19.5 50 Dogubekazik - 19.5 55 Erzek Gölü - 20.5 15 Tatvan.
2006: Most 17.5 30 Kayseri-Sarkisla – 17.5 150 Kayseri-Sivas (75 nests Sivas) – 18.5 65 Erzinzan – 18.5 85 Mercan-Askale – 18.5 100 Askale – 20.5 225 Ardahan – 21.5 400 Susuz – 22.5 150 Caldiran.
2007: Most 17.5 60 Sarkisla-Sivas – 18.5 85 Erzinzan-Altunkent – 18.5 100 Altunkent – 19.5 100 Askale – 20.5 700 Sazak – 20.5 300 Kars – 21.5 100 Caldiran – 21.5 250 Bulanik.

264. **Hooted Crow** *Corvus corone* **Gråkrage**
Common throughout.
2005: Most 16.5 20 Baskarschmak - 17.5 20 Hopa.
2006: Most 14.5 10 Istanbul – 18.5 15 Mercan-Askale – 20.5 10 Debarapazi-Hoba – 20.5 25 Ardahan – 21.5 30 Kars-Halikisla – 22.5 20 South Van Marshes – 24.5 10 Birezik.
2007: Most 15.5 6 Göksu Delta- 15.5 7 Pozanti-Demirkazik – 18.5 10 Erzinzan-Altunkent – 18.5 9 Ikizdere-Rize – 19.5 10 Hopa – 21.5 15 Bulanik – 25.5 40 Birezik – 25.5 5 Halfeti – 26.5 10 Birezik-Adana.

265. **Common Raven** *Corvus corax* **Ravn**
Scarce in mountain and hilly country.
2005: Most 16.5 2 Sivri Kaya - 17.5 4 Artvin.
2006: Most 15.5 3 Imamli-Mut – 15.5 6 Mut – 19.5 2 Sivri Kaya – 19.5 3 Kalkandere-Izikdere – 20.5 7 Borcka-Artvin – 20.5 10 Artvin.
2007: 15.5 2 Imamli – 19.5 1 Borcka-Artvin – 19.5 1 Artvin-Savsat – 20.5 1 Dogubayazit
Ssp. *laurencei* occurs in most of the area, except extreme northeast, where overlapping with *corax.* Compared to *corax,* has slightly duller, less glossy plumage, with wear often with brownish tinge to hindneck with shorter throat-feathers (Cramp & Perrins 1994).

266. **Common Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris tauricus* **Stær**
Common, especially in northern part of Anatolia, where abundant in arable land and villages; flock up to 50 noted here.
2005: Most 15.5 45 near Nigde - 15.5 40 Sarisla - 15.5 55 near Sivas - 16.5 100 near Erzinzan - Scarcer in the far East, but with 18.5 50 Serpmetas - 19.5 30 Ishak Pasa the largest numbers..Again more numereous westwards, e.g. 19.5 80 Van Marshes - 20.5 215 South Van Marshes.
2006: Most 18.5 25 Erzinzan-Mercan – 18.5 40 Gelinkaya – 21.5 65 Ardahan-Kars – 21.5 85 Igdir-Dogubayazit – 21.5 40 Dogubayazit – 22.5 20 Dogubayazit – 22.5 70 Ishak Pasa.
2007: Most 15.5 15 Pinarbasi – 16.5 15 Demirkazik – 20.5 35 Ardahan-Kars – 20.5 15 Kars – 20.5 50 Saz Gölü – 21.5 50 Sim Er Hotel, Dogubayazit – 21.5 40 Patnos-Bulanik – 21.5 400 Bulanik – 25.5 85 Café Gülhane, Birezik – 25.5 40 Halfeti-Birezik.
The ssp. *tauricus* present in E Turkey. Generally appears blacker than *vulgaris* with more purple, oily gloss, but extensive green gloss on head (in sharp sunlight in good contrast to rest of body). The overall spotting and the pale edges to coverts and tertials were much weaker than in *vulgaris*, thus bearing reminiscence to Spotless Starling *S. unicolor*; however, *tauricus* invariably showed broad white crevrons in under tail coverts (lacking or at most (1 year females) very narrow in Spotless) and most shows pale spots in mantle, lacking in Spotless (but in some *tauricus* worn off).

Further differences are (Malling Olsen 2003, 2006 with comments on certain aspects by L. Svensson, J. Boman & M. Hellström in litt):
1. Bill usually stronger with more curved upper mandible in Spotless (where might appear intermediate in shape between the spike-like of Starling and the thrush-like of Rosy-coloured starling). Furthermore, many Spotless males shows more extensive bluish grey base to bill than in Common Starling.
2: Most Spotless shows much longer elongated feathers in throat and hindneck, to create "lion´s head or Bob Marley dread-locks. This is never as pronounced in Common Starling.
3: Legs often striking bubblegum-pink in Spotless, always greyer pink in Common Starling.
4: Underwing bicoloured in Spotless with black coverts in clear contrast to paler flight feathers. Common Starling shows uniform underwing.
In Southeastern Turkey (east of Gaziantep and the pains of E Anatolia), the population is regarded as belonging to ssp. *purpurascens*, which probably intergrades with *tauricus*. (Cramp & Perrins 1994) We found differences small; certain birds looking less glossy and thus blacker than North Anatolian birds, but more studies needed.

267. **Rose-coloured Starling** *Sturnus roseus* **Rosenstær**
2005 18.5 8 Igdir - 18.5 10 Serpmetas - 19.5 1 Van Hills.
2006: 15.5 15 Karaman-Eregli – 17.5 60 Sultan Sazligi – 17.5 90 Sultan Sazligi-Kayseri – 18.5 30 Erzinzan – 20.5 30 Ardesen – 21.5 5 Kars – 21.5 1 Dogubayazit – 22.5 7 Ishak Pasa – 23.5 12 Van-Tatvan – 23.5 10 Bitlis – 23.5 17 Bitlis-Silvan – 24.5 25 Siverik-Kahta.
2007: 14.5 8 Adana – 14.5 67 Akgöl, Göksu Delta – 16.5 10 Sultan Sazligi – 18.5 15 Maden Köprubasi -20.5 60 Halikisla – 20.5 80 Tuzluca – 22.5 4 Suceke, Raman Dagi – 22.5 4000 Midyat – 22.5 4 Midyat-Oyali – 23.5 55 Diyarbakir – 23.5 13 Siverik – 23.5 125 Buzak.
In 2005 rather low numbers, but more in 2006 with most in the western part of the visited range, and with good numbers in 2007.
Breeds irregular in large colonies and flocks of hundreds are reported by many visitors. Notorious irruptive, with breeding probably occuring widespread in Eastern half Turkey in certain years, none in others. E.g. sometimes hundreds in Birezik. Among large numbers in recent years are 6000 near Van May 1981, 3000 nesting near Diyarbakir in May 2001 and 4000+ Midyat May 2007 (Occhiato 2001, Christian Leth pers. comm)

268. **Golden Oriole** *Oriolus oriolus* **Pirol**
2005: 16.5 2 Gelinkaya - 21.5 1 Birezik (at the "owl café).
2006: 14.5 1 Göksu Delta – 18.5 5 Erzinzan-Mercan – 18.5 2 Gelinkaya – 18.5 1 Gelinkaya-Maden Köprubasi – 18.5 5 Ispir -22.5 8 Dogubayazit.
2007: 17.5 1 Tuzla Gölü – 17.5 5 Sarkisla-Sivas – 18.5 2 Erzinzan-Altunkent – 18.5 2 Maden Köprubasi – 19.5 1 Artvin-Savsat -20.5 1 Halikisla – 23.5 1 Buzak.

269. **Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus* **Skovspurv**
2006: 22.5 2 Sim Er Hotel, Dogubayazit – 24.5 2 Birezik.
2007: 15.5 5 Kamisli between Pozanti and Demirkazik.

270. **House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus* **Gråspurv**
Common throughout, with frequent gatherings of hundreds in villages and towns.
2005: hundreds everywhere near Göksu and Adana - otherwise 15.5 140 Kayseri. Scarcer in the North and East, but again common from the SE, most 18.5 75 Igdir- 18.5 100 Ishak Pasa - 21.5 hundreds Birezik - 23.5 200 Imamli - 24.5 700 Tarsus Delta West. - 24.5 500 Tuzla Creek.

2006: Most 14.5 400 Göksu Delta - 15.5 300 Imamli-Mut - 21-22.5 daily max. 100 Ishak Pasa – 23.5 100 South Van Marshes- 24.5 575 Birezik.
2007: Most 14.5 350 Akgöl, Göksu Delta – 15.5 400 Imamli - 15.5 500 Göksu Delta – 16.5 300 Sultan Sazligi – 20.5 200 Ishak Pasa – 22.5 400 Hasankeyf – 22.5 115 Hasankeyf-Midyat – 24.5 200 Kanliavsar- 24.5 100 Damlica – 24.5 200 Birezik – 25.5 350 Birezik plantations – 26.5 140 Havutlu – 26.5 300 Tuzla-Adana.
Certain birds showed characters of the ssp. *indicus* (white cheek, generally warmer brown-tinged upperparts).

271. **Spanish Sparrow** *Passer hispaniloides* **Spansk Spurv**
2005: 13.5 20 Akgol, Göksu Delta - 13.5 15 Göksu Delta - 22.5 20 Isikli - 24.5 200 Tuzla Creek.
2006: 23.5 7 Karabache between Diyarbekir and Siverik.
2007: 15.5 1 male Kurtulus, Göksu Delta (in nest of White Stork) – 16.5 2 males+1 female Kavdarli – 22.5 35 Midyat – 23.5 6 Marsin-Diyarbakir – 23.5 50 Karadut – 24.5 45 Karadut – 26.5 50 Tuzla-Adana.
Found locally in arable country, including semi-arid open landscape with wadis and stands of tamarisk in Western Turkey, along Mediterranean and in S Turkey. Unlike House Sparrow often seen in countryside sway from human settlements.

272. **Dead Sea Sparrow** *Passer moabitucus* **Dødehavsspurv**
2005: 21.5 at Birezik: 5 (of which 1 nesting male) plantations 4 km. north of the bridge - 10 River Euphrates south of the bridge - 1 male gravel pits north of Birezik.
2006: 25-26.5 3 males Birezik (plantations 3-4 km. north of the bridge, at eastern shore of river Euphrates) - 25.5 3 Birezik (south of the bridge) – 25.5 60 3 km. north of the bridge, at western shore of river Euphrates (including several breeding pairs).
2007: 22.5 10 Hasankeyf – 24.5 200 in colonies Kanliavsar – 24.5 10 Damlica – 24.5 20 (several with nests) Gravel Pits, Birezik – 25.5 15 Birezik plantations – 25.5 2 Birezik-Halfeti.
Very local, but locally in large numbers. Mainly observed at Birezik, but locally colonies in agricultural landscape between Birezik and Sanliurfa and in the Mesopotamin basin between the rivers Tigris and Euphrates. Also, small, isolated populations in the south between Silifke and eastwards to Diyarbakir (e.g. Tarsus and Göksu Deltas). Found in dry lowland country and plantations of almonds and pistachia, often near rivers and waterponds. Nests in bushes and trees, especially stands of Tamarisks, often in large, dense colonies.

273. **Rock Sparrow** *Petronia petronia* **Stenspurv**
2005: 14.5 5 Dermirkazik (at the entrance to the wadi) - 14.5 60 Cucurbak - 16.5 5 Maden Koprubari - 16.5 1 Ovitdagi Gecedi - 18.5 2 Halikisla - 19.5 20 Ishak Pasa - 19.5 1 Caldiran - 19.5 20 Van Hills - 22.5 6 Isikli.
2006: 16.5 2 Demirkazik – 16.5 2 Kalki Dag – 21.5 5 Halikisla – 21-22.5 daily max. 15 Ishak Pasa – 22.5 3 Bendimahi Marshes, Van Gölü – 22.5 5 Bendimahi Marshes-Van – 24.5 4 Nemrut Dagi – 24.5 3 Atatürk Barasi – 25.5 2 Birezik.
2007: 15.5 100 Kinarbasi – 20.53 Halikisla – 20.5 25 Sogoksu – 20.5 2 Ishak Pasa – 21.5 10 Sogoksu – 21.5 1 Sogoksu-Caldiran -23.5 2 Nemrut Dagi – 24.5 10 Atatürk Baraji – 25.5 2 Isik Restanrant Wadi, Birezik.
Widespread in rocky, hilly areas with low vegetation and larger rocks; also mountains above treeline up to probably >3000 m. Mainly distrubuted in SW part of Turkey, following Mediterraneans, but also in the far East of Black Sea (Cramp & Perrins 1994). The western birds belongs to the nominate form, which probably occurs in an overlap zone with the paler ssp. *exigua*,

which occurs in approximately the eastern haft of Turkey. Birds from the Far East are *exigua*, which on average is paler, more gryish-tinged in upperparts, and have narrower streaing in breast and mantle than *petronia*.

274. **Yellow-throated Sparrow** *Gymnornis xanthocollis* **Gulstrubet Spurv**
2005: 21,5 3 Birezik 3-4 km. north of the bridge in plantations on eastern shore of River Euphrates.
2006: 25.5 2 Birezik 3-4 km. north of the bridge, in almond groves along eastern shore of river Euphrates – 26.5 4 Birezik fruit plantations.
2007: 25.5 4 Birezik plantations.
Breeds in dry lowland, where preferring groves with well spread trees, plantations (especially of pistachio near Birezik) and open oak growths (Nemrud Dagi). Often sings from electric wires.
Locally common, but very local Southern Turkey with the Birezik population (incl.Halfeti) as the best known, but may well prove to be more widespread; also frequently seen Nemrud Dagi (oak plantations between Karakus and Settimio Severo´s roman bridge in Narince) and in Cizre area (Green & Moorhouse 1995, Occhiato 2001, Hendriks 2004).

275. **Pale Rock Sparrow** *Carpospiza brachydactyla* **Lys Stenspurv**
2005: 20.5 1 Sariskana 15 km W of Baykan - 21.5 1 "Ibis Wadi", Birezik.
2006: 24.5 25 Nemrut Dagi – 25.5 2 “Ibis Wadi”, Birezik – 26.5 4 “Ibis Wadi”, Birezik.
2007: 22.5 1 singing Suceke, Raman Dagi.
Local, nomadic breeder in the southernmost part of Turkey from Gaziantep and eastwards. Found on arid hillsides with ravines, slopes and low grasses; sometimes more well-grown low thickets and growths, normally >1500 m. Arrives very late, from mid May to breeding sites, thus easier recorded in summer. The strange, cikada-like song is the best way to localize this species.
Other sites, where the species have been reported from regularly includes Durnalik, in "the moonscape" = the highest, least vegetated parts of the small mountain areas present, see direction in Gosney 1991). At Birezik, the dry parts and grassy slopes of the "Ibis Valley" is the most reliable site. At Nemrud Dagi near Adiyaman found in small rocky areas between Kahta and the archeological site Karakus, especially after the military barracks, but also in upper parts above the tree limits close to the archeological site (Occhiato 2001, own obs.). In Nemrud Dagi near Tatvan ("the wrong Nemrud Dagi for Red-tailed Whearear”) in the higher parts. In Van Hills, at the site noted for Grey-necked Bunting.
In some years more widespread in the SE Turkey (Adiyaman area and E to areas south of Van (e.g. reported Gölünear Ogakly, Kozluk, Bitlis and Baykan; Occhiato 2001, Hendriks 2004). In NE part more irregular, but a good number noted summer 2001 between Refahiye and Ispir (Niemi 2001).
Recent peak years have been 2001 and 2006, the latter a peak year in Middle East (Y. Perlman pers. comm.). 2007 was a rather poor year. Apart from our observation, 20 was observed late May at Durnalik. Negative reports from Nemrud Dagi late May (Christian Leth & Olof Jönsson in sms), but one noted early May (P. ter Heide in e-mail).

276. **Snow Finch** *Montifringilla nivalis* **Snefinke**
2005: 14.5 20 Cimbar Bogazi, Demirkazik - 16.5 4 Ovitdagi Gecedi - 18.5 2 Tenduruk Gecedi Rakum - 18.5 1 Serpmetas.
2006: 16.5 55 Demirkazik – 16.5 1 Cucurbak – 18.5 6 Ovitdagi Gecedi – 19.5 4 Ovitdagi Gecedi – 22.5 2 (nesting pais) Ishak Pasa – 22.5 2 Tendürük Gecedi.
2007: 16.5 20 Cimbar Bogazi, Demirkazik – 16.5 2 Demirkazik – 18.5 2 Maden Köprubasi-Ovitdagi Gecedi – 20.5 2 Ardahan-Kars – 20.5 6 Sogoksu – 20.5 1 Gülizar – 21.5 3 (incl. pair with nest) Sogoksu – 21.5 3 Serpmetas.

Local in high mountain areas >1700 m, well above treeline in grassy and stony hillsides with large rocks and cliffs. Often feeds on sloping grassy hill-sides. A true mountain bird, which somewhat isolated population in Aladag range and again from NE Pontic mountain and on the borders to Caucasus; also high mountains E of Lake Van, where often seen in passes.
Probably in lower altitudes outside breeding season, e.g. 100 in flock near Mut, April 2007 (Simon Berg Pedersen per e-mail).

277. **Common Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs* **Bogfinke**
2005: 13.5 6 Pozanti - 13,5 3 Camardi - 14.5 1 Kalki Dag - 16.5 5 Sivri Kaya - 16.5 1 Izikdere - 17.5 3 Izikdere - 17.5 1 Depeparazi - 17.5 1 Artvin.
2006: 15.5 9 Imamli-Mut. Common Pontic Mountains, most 18-20.5 daily max. 15 Izikdere – 19.5 7 Sivri Kaya – 19.5 12 Kalkandere – 20.5 8 Cam Gecedi. More scattered to the south: 23.5 3 Tatvan-Bitlis.
2007: 15.5 7 Pozanti-Demirkazik – 15.5 1 Cucurbak – 18.5 5 Sivri Kaya – 18.5 4 Ikizdere – 18.5 1 Ikizdere-Rize- 19.5 1 Rize – 19.5 11 Hopa – 19.5 30 Cam Gecedi.
The birds from Sivri Kaya and eastwards looked slight different from *coelebs* in males having a bluer tinge to hood (which appeared somewhat more restricted than in *coelebs*) and breast pinkier with reddish being confined to breast, in some leaving contrasting pale, sometimes greyish-white belly. The mantle in at least one male showed few green feathers. These are treated as ssp. *solomkoi* or *caucasica* (Cramp & Perrins 1994).

278. **Linnet** *Cardielis cannabina bella* **Tornirisk**
Rather common in open landscale, especially in hilly areas.
2005: Most 18.5 25 Ishak Pasa - 19.5 20 Van Hills - 22.5 10 Isikli - 22.5 10 Durnalik.
2006: Most 16.5 4 Demirkazik – 21.5 4 Halikisla – 21-22.5 daily max. 10 Ishak Pasa
2007: Most 15.5 4 Demirkazik – 20.5 5 Halikisla – 21.5 5 Dogubayazit-Tendürek Gecedi – 21.5 4 Sogoksu.
The ssp. *bella* is similar to *cannabina*, In male, head paler and mantle greyish-brown (hazel), leaving a paler overall impression, which enforced the extensive red in breast and forehead; The ssp. is described as showing paler and less extensive red than *cannabina* (Cramp & Perrins 1994), but this not supported in series of photoes of birds from Ishak Pasa, where the red was extensive, only a tinge paler and more orange-toned than the carmine-red of *cannabina*, so probably some variation in this ssp.

279. (**Asian**) **Twite** *Carduelis flavirostris brevirostris* **(Asiatisk) Bjergirisk**
2005: 18.5 1 Ishak Pasa - 18.5 8 Somkaya.
2006: 18.5 4 Ovitdagi Gecedi – 19.5 10 Ovitdagi Gecedi – 21.5 4 Halikisla – 22.5 10 Tendürük Gecedi – 22.5 6 Gulicar.
2007: 18.5 4 Ovitdagi Gecedi -20.5 1 Sogoksu – 21.5 1 Tendürek Gecedi.
The taxon *brevirostris* is distinctly different from the *flavirostris*-group (N and NW Europe). This, together with the isolation between the nominate and the Asian population indicates that they may be candidates for treatment as different species: Northern Twite *C. flavirostris* and Asian Twite *C. brevirostris*. However, no main research have yet been done.
Brevirostris is similar shaped to *flavoristris*, but less fluffy. The upperparts had broader dark streaking, the head-pattern was stronger and "more depressive" and the breast deeper buffish with conspicious broad dark streaks, in males often enough to create a striking clear contract to the white underparts. The rump is deeper rosy (sometimes noted as whitish; Cramp & Simmons 1994) and the

greater coverts bar stronger, creating a single white wing bar, which is often conspicious and surprising broad in flight (compare Mongolian Trumpeter Finch!). Voices differs slightly.
Breeds in mountain slopes in Eastern half of Turkey, often with grassy and herbal vegetation on stony background, or in harsher mountain areas with hardly any vegetation. Distrubuted patchily in mountain areas of Central and Eastern Turkey

280. **Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis* **Stillits**
Rather common.
2005: Most 23.5 16 (incl,pair with youngs) Demircili - 24.5 20 Tarsus Delta West.
2006: Most 15.5 10 Demircili – 15.5 10 Imamli-Mut – 24.5 6 Nemrut Dagi.
2007: Most 14.5 35 Akgöl, Göksu Delta – 15.5 15 Demirzili – 15.5 50 Pozanti-Demirkazik – 24.5 9 Nemrut Dagi – 26.5 55 Havutlu.

281. **Siskin** *Carduelis spinus* **Grønsisken**
2006: 19.5 1 Izikdere – 20.5 1 Cam Gecedi.

282. **Common Greenfinch** *Carduelis chloris* **Grønirisk**
Rather common in the south.
2005: Most 23.5 10 Göksu Delta.
2006: 14.5 2 Göksu Delta – 15.5 1 Mut.
2007: 14.5 6 Mersin-Erdemli – 14.5 15 Akgöl, Göksu Delta – 15.5 4 Göksu Delta – 26.5 30 Havutlu.

283. **Serin** *Serinus serinus* **Gulirisk**
Scarce, mainly confined to the south.
2005: 23.5 1 Demirzili - 24.5 1 Tarsus Delta West.
2006: 17.5 1 Sultan Sazligi.
2007: 14.5 2 Akgöl, Göksu Delta – 15.5 1 female Demircili – 15.5 1 Pinarbasi – 17.5 1 Kizilham Gecedi-Erzinzan – 26.5 8 Havutlu.

284. **Red-fronted Serin** *Serinus pusillus* **Rødpandet Irisk**
2005: 14.5 1 singing mid wadi Demirkazik - 18.5 2 Ishak Pasa.
2006: 16.5 5 Demirkazik – 16.5 2 Cucurbak – 16.5 2 Kalki Dag – 18.5 1 Ovitdagi Gecedi – 22.5 2 Ishak Pasa.
2007: 16.5 25 Demirkazik.
Breeds in mid to upper range (supalpine zones) of mountains in upper parts of tree-line >1000 m, most 1800-3000 m. Prefers areas of birch or pines (Aladag) and low scrub. Often occurs on slopes with stand of trees, bushes and large stones. Also in deep wadis and stony, grassy sides with large amount of rocks (Ishak Pasa). Sometimes in small, dense flocks.
In Turkey found in most mountain areas, such as Uludag in the west, Aladag mountains and the Pontic Mountains (regularly observed in the surrounding of Sivri Kaya) as well as in the far East.

285. **Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* **Dompap**
2005: 16.5 1 Sivri Kaya.
2006: 19.5 1 Izikdere.
Note: the call here was identical to Bullfinch of NW Europe, not the "trumpet call", which has been associated with Caucasian breeder during extensive discussion autumn and winter 2004/2005,

where many such birds - probably from Siberian populations - were noted throughout North and West Europe.

286. **Common Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostra* **Lille Korsnæb**
2006: 19.5 8 Izikdere – 20.5 2 Izikdere – 20.5 20 Cam Gecedi (incl. 1st cal. year birds).

287. **Common Rosefinch** *Carpodacus erythacus kubanensis* **Karmindompap**
2005: 16.5 3 Sivri Kaya - 17.5 1 Izikdere - 17.5 2 Hopa - 19.5 3 Sivri Kaya.
2006: 18.5 18 Gelinkaya – 18.5 15 Maden Köprubasi – 19.5 6 Izikdere – 19.5 10 Sivri Kaya – 19.5 3 Sivri Kaya-Kalkandere – 20.5 1 Cam Gecedi – 22.5 3 Dogubayazit.
2007: 17.5 2 Kizilham Gecedi-Erzinzan – 18.5 2 Gelinkaya – 18.5 1 Maden Köprubasi-Ovitdagi Gecedi – 19.5 1 Borcka-Artvin – 21.5 12 Sim Er Hotel, Dogubayazit.
The ssp. *kubanensis* is similar to *erithacus*, but males often with more extensive red in underparts, reaching belly.
In Turkey, breeds in montane area of the north, especially to the NE Pontic mountains, where found in well vegetated valleys, in willow scrub and open woodland, mainly somewhat higher up than we did try. Observed in 2006 in small flocks, possibly birds on migration.

288. **Crimson-winged Finch** *Rhodopectus sanguinea* **Karmoisinfinke**
2005: 18.5 15 Serpmetas - 19.5 3 Ishak Pasa. - 19.5 2 Van Hills.
2006: 16.5 5 Demirkazik.
2007: 16.5 2 Cimbar Bogazi, Demirkazik – 20.5 1 Sogoksu – 21.5 3 Sogoksu – 21.5 1 Serpmetas.
Breeds in mountains of southern C Turkey and eastwards, above 1700-2000 m. in almost vegetation-less mountains and large areas of vulcanic soil, also stony slopes with low scrub and stands of juniper above treeline.
Areas with frequent observations includes Demirkazik/Aladag, Sivri Kaya, Nemrud Dagi (near Van Gölü), volcanic soil areas around Lake Van (e.g Gözekla south of Lake Van, in the direction through Hakkari) and any suitable area in the SE. Largest recent number is 200+ Maj 2004 at Serpmetas (Ortvad 2004). Outside main areas, 4 observed west of Eregli May 2006 (Nilsson 2006).

289. **Mongolian Trumpeter Finch** *Bucanetes mongolicus* **Mongolsk Ørkendompap**
2005: 18.5 1 male Ishak Pasa.
2006: 22.5 1 male Tendürük Gecedi.
2007: 21.5 1 singing Sogoksu – 21.5 6 Serpmetas (of which 3 males+2 females).
Found in the extreme E Turkey in areas bordering Iran within the triangle Lake Van - Dogubayazit - Tuzluca; first recorded 1977 (Clement et al. 1993 mentions first record as early as 1915, (Barthel et al. 1992, Kirwan & Konrad 1995). Occurs in rugged mountains in altitudes between 800 and 2800 m, especially in areas of dark volcanic soil. Also rocky hills with grassy slopes. Often feeds in grassy fields bordering dark lava soil.
In May, the best site is the lava-fields at Serpmetas near Caldiran. Here max. 10 birds observed May 2007 (Olof Jönsson & Christian Leth per sms, own obs.). We found 6 displaying birds here, occuring in a dense group performing a mixture of hunting each other, and males regularly performing display from perched cliffs or even a road. *Direction*: In the village Caldiran, a dirt road immediately south of the military camp leads north. Among the names on the sighs are “Serpmetas 7”. Follow the road; in the outskirs of the village a school is passed; here the road may be partly flooded. Continue along a canal for 4 km, then turn right into the lava-fields. The main site is in the middle of the lava-fields. If you continue to Serpmetas, you will probably be shown away by a gun-man.

Also lava-fields between Tendürek Gecedi and Gülicar, especially around Sogoksu, e.g. 11 in flock with Crimson-winged Finches and Rock Sparrows early May 2007 (Spanish group), the Tendürek Gecedi (highest pass) and the wadi opposite the village of Gülicar. Up to 9 seen here June 2006 Niemo 2000, Petterson 2006).

Ishak Pasa is in later summer the main site, and up to 40 have been seen here in July-August; Observations in May more random, and the black soil areas between Dogubayazit and Van offers better opportunities (see above). At Ishak Pasa, most regular beyond the "second parking lot", some hundred meters to the SE of the palace. Here, you find a large parking and picnic area with some tea-stands. From the area closest to the palace, a track leads up to the mountains. Continue 1-200 meters on the mountain range on your left hand, where a bulge comes towards you near som some hardly visible ruins. The grassy and rocky slopes with larger arid areas here is the main spot (Hendriks 2004). Also regular on grassy slopes here and down to the Palace, especially at the slopes and the gorge between the upper café and the Palace. Probably breeds higher up, in unvegetated, steep hills, coming down to feed at the mentioned sites.

To be looked for in any suitable habits in the mountain areas of the east as well as in SE Turkey , especially Hakkari Range. Found June 2006 SE of Van along road leading to Hosap Castle (W of hosap, E of reservoir, <1 km. W of bridge, in dry wadi (Highie 2006). Several areas between Tuzluca and Dogubayazit looked promising, e.g. Cilla Gecedi.

Vagrant noted Sivri Kaya, NE Pontic mountains 25.6 1999; Reported Desert Finches from the mid 1970ies south of Kayseri and along east side of Tuz Gölü (well away from the breeding area of this species), could have been Mongolian Trumpeter Finch (Kirwan et al. 2000); however, confusion with Crimson-winged Finch - is a more plausible explanation.

Small, a little larger but much stockier than Linnet/Twite, in flight showing two white wing-bars, created by broad white median coverts and white bases to secondaries; greater coverts are rosy and the primaries rosy-glimpsing in flight, as the inner webs are rosy. Rump rosy, tail dark with extensive white sides (pattern vaguely recalling certain Wheatears *Oenanthe*). Males have extensive rosy face to breast; crown to mantle pale greyish-brown. Head appears full and bill narrow, as in Linnet (thus much smaller than in Trumpeter Finch), and pale creamy. Females resemble dull versions of males; juveniles rather non-descript pale greyish brown with short, pale bill and pale wing-bars. Vaguely recalling a miniature and greyish Common Rosefinch female. The jizz is similar to Linnet, but head fuller; appears pale end round-headed in flight with conspicious broad white wing-bars. The bill is proportionally small; Svensson et al. (1999) illlustrates the jizz as similar to Trumpeter Finch, but head too narrow and bill too large (although narrow-based bill mentioned in the text).

The call includes a hoarse Willow Warbler-like tone, often with a short introductary tone. A soft "dju-vud" also noted ("does not play that beautiful on trumpet" as Trumpeter Finch). We noted call as a repeted, nasal "njüv", with a Trumpeter Finch- like tone. Song a pleasant slow "do-mi-sol-mi" with repetitions and interspersed with twittering, often rather far-crying and not dissimilar to Common Rosefinch. Feeding birds may call similar (Clement et al. 1993).

Kirwan & Gregory (2005) recommands placing the species in a genus of its own: *Eremopsaltria*.

290. **Desert Finch** *Rhodospiza obsoleta* **Ørkenfinke**

2005: 21.5 3 Birezik (plantations 4-5 km. north of Birezik town).

2006: 25.5 5 Birezik (plantations 3 km. north of the bridge, at western shore of river Euphrates) – 26.5 1 male Birezik (4 km. north of the bridge, at gravel pits along eastern shore of River Euphrates).

2007: 25.5 1 Birezik plantations.

Local breeder in Turkey in the southern part of the Eufrat-Tigris Valley, especially Birezik-Adiyaman-Sanli Urfa triangle. Breeds in arid areas, semi-desert and valleys with second growth and open plantations near water, especially pistachio and olive growths. Often noted in small groups around Birezik, also to the north, e.g. at Ciftlik and in the agricultural landscape E of Birezik.

291. **Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoenebaenus reiseri/caspia* **Rørspurv**
2005: 19.5 2 males South Van Marshes.
2006: 21.5 1 Bendimahi, Van Gölü.
The isolated population here shows a very strong swollen bill, which could be mistaken as a bill disease if you not are prepared for the gradual chance in bill proportions from the small-billed birds of NW Europe to the heavy-billed from areas more to the SE.

292. **Ortolan Bunting** *Emberiza hortulana* **Hortulan**
2005: 16.5 4 Gelinkaya - Maden Köprunasi - 16.5 1 Maden Koprunasi - 18.5 3 Ishak Pasa - 19.5 3 Ishak Pasa.
2006: 16.5 1 male Demirkazik – 16.5 4 (of which 2 singing males) Cucurbak – 21.5 1 male Ishak Pasa – 22.5 3 Ishak Pasa.
2007: 16.5 1 male Demirkazik – 17.5 1 Sarkisla-Sivas – 21.5 3 Sogoksu.
Breeds throughout Turkey, mainly in hilly areas with lush vegetation, plantations and grassy areas near streams. It should be noted, that it occurs at many areas “traditionally" regarded as the home of Grey-necked Bunting. At Ishak Pasa both species were present, with Ortolan inhabiting the lower, well vegetated bushy part along streams, and Grey-necked higher up (we were somewhat surprised by studying how many reports that lacks observations from Ishak Pasa; most had only noted Grey-necked Bunting here!), but Ortolan even noted higher up, in rougher habitat than noted in Grey-necked.
ID is easy: Ortolan Bunting invariably shows yellow eyering (faintest in certain femaletypes, where indistinct and mainly restridted to forepart (own obs., Israel 1994) and an olive wash to the head, and rather warm brown, well streaked mantle. The yellow malar and throat is surrounded completely by grey (with an olive tinge) and the tertialt have well defined pattern of black in inner webs. The song is a beautiful slow version of Yellowhammer: "dzy-dzy-dzy-tsi-tyu" (has been compared to the introduction to Beethoven´s 5th symphony) and the call a weak, descending "ty-u".

293. **Cretzschmar´s Bunting** *Emberiza caesia* **Rustværling**
2005: 22.5 2 males Isikli - 22.5 3 Durnalik - 23.5 2 Demirzili - 23.5 3 Imamli.
2006: 15.5 1 male Demircili – 15.5 1 Imamli – 24.5 1 male Nemrut Dagi.
2007: 14.5 2 Mezbahane – 15.5 6 Demirzili – 15.5 2 Imamli.
Population estimated to 10.000-100.000 pairs in Turkey. Breeds in W and C Turkey eastwards to the valleys near Gaziantep in sunny slopes with maquis, thorny bushes and in plantations. Among the three "grey-headed, eye browed and varm underpart-patterned" buntings is clearly prefers the warmest areas, and rarely found >1300 m.
The song is the beautiful of these species, but it sometimes include strange asmatic notes and in not as full-toned as in OrtolanBunting. The short "spit" call is similar to Grey-necked Bunting, but the species seeming never occur alongside.

294. **Grey-necked Bunting** *Emberiza buchanani cerrutii* **Bjerghortulan**
2005: 18.5 Ishak Pasa - 19.5 3 Ishak Pasa - 19.5 4 Van Hills, Van.
2006: 21.5 2 Halikisla – 21.5 1 Ishak Pasa – 22.5 2 Van Hills, Van.
2007: 20.5 6 Halikisla.

Breeds in SE Turkey in hilly, stony areas with field of short grass and herbs, always in rocky areas; normally >2000 m. To be looked for in any such area S and E of Van Gölü; probably widespread in the extreme SE near Hakkari and Yüksekova.

The Van Hills site is well described in gosney 1992. The Halikisla site – a wadi – is on the main road between Kars and Tuzluca. Arriving from the north it is the first wadi passed. It is situated 4.4. km. north of the Halikisla village. Direction from Tuzluca: drive west from Tuzluza towards Erzerum. After 9 km. a sigh leads towards Diyar and Kars. Drive 8.6 km. to Halikisla village, then further 4.4 km. from the northern Halikisla sign.

Reported Demirkazik May 2005, but circumstances unknown (Lars and Henrik Rask pers. comm.). Im autumn small groups gathers, and up to 40 have been seen at Lake Van.

Similar to Ortolan Bunting, but the eye-ring is white, head has a cold bluish-grey tinge lacking any olive or greenish, the throat and malar are whitish-yellow and the grey breast-bar of Ortolan Bunting lacks. In males, underparts more reddish-brown than the orange-tinged of Ortolan Bunting, often often appears "wooly" (clean-looking in Ortolan). The upperparts are cold greyish-brown with much finer and fainter streaking than in Ortolan, the lower scapulars are reddish brown, in good contrast to rest of upperparts (clean and uniformly well streaked in Ortolan) and the tertials fainter patterned (see e.g. Mullarney et al. 1999) with more even, but diffuser edges and brownish-tinged centres.

The species is patchily distributed between SE Turkey and Central Asia. Winters Pakistan and W part of India. In Turkey represented by ssp. *cerrutii* (Turkey, Iran), which is the palest ssp. The nominate form (N Afghanistan to W Pakistan) darker with more brownish-grey, less olive-tinged mantle, less contrasting scapulars and paler, less extensive reddish underparts; belly often paler than breast. Ssp. *neobscura* (Central Asia to W China) similar to mominate, but darker with greyer crown and olive-tinged mantle (Byers et. al 1995). Some birds in winter (ssp. unknown) may show very slight yellow tinge to eye-ring (U. Gjøl Sørensen & Jugal Tiwari per e-mail).

The song is harsher than in Ortolan Bunting, lacking the full, melancholic tone, but often more varied and with third tone being the strongest. The call is a short "stip" similar to Creszschmar´s Bunting.

295. **Cinereous Bunting** *Emberiza cineracea* **Gulgrå Værling**

2005: 22.5 1 male *semenowi* Isikli - 22.5 15 Durnalik (of which at least 2 male *cineracea*; the rest *semenowa*).

2006: 24.5 35 Nemrut Dagi (all *semenowa*).

2007: 23.5 5 Karadut – 23.5 30 Nemrut Dagi – 24.5 1 Hotel Euphrates, Karadut – 24.5 3 Karadut – 24.5 65 Nemrut Dagi (all *semenowa*).

Local breeder in dry, stony slopes with patches of macchia, scattered trees and open plantations. Turkish population estimated to between 500 and 5000 pairs (Byers et al. 1995). In Turkey, *cineracea* is regarded as solely breeding in the W part of the country. The population is well seperated from the restricted range of *semenowi*, which breeds in areas between Adana and Birezik (mainly noted in Durnalik/Isikli area and Nemrut Dagi) north to at least Nemrud Dagi (the famous archeaological site near Adiyaman), where common around and especially above tree-limit in dry, bushy hills, especially along the road leading to the acheolological site (Occhiati 2001, Hendriks 2004, see also Red-tailed Wheatear), but also along the gravel road to the opposite site of the site, leading to Arsemeia. Also regular at Halfeti. Frequently noted south of Van Gölü.

Male *Cineracea* has lime-yellow restricted to throat, malar and face, with grey hindneck to upperparts (showing faint greyish-brown streaks), grey breast and flanks and paler whitish belly. Male *semenowi* has lime-yellow throat, malar and underbody with the grey of breast of flanks being

slighly yellowish-tined. Often head appears olive-yellow onto hindneck. Upperparts otherwise as *cineracea*, but streaking sometimes slightly warmer tinged brown (photoes, skins, Byers 1995.).
The song was noted as a 5-toned "tjy – TJY-VY (vy) - tse-li", with the last part higher-pitched than the first two parts, albeit with some variation. It had a hoarse tone.
At Durnalik, two *cineracea* were observed in 2005 (occurence in the area of both ssp. has also been noted by Schwalbe 2001), but *serenowi* dominates here, and was the only ssp. observed at Nemrut Dagi. One *serenowi*-looking bird at Durnalik in May 2005 showed clear contrasting grey hindneck than most males; this could be a result of interbreeding (the same character apparent in the exceptional vagrant from Skagen, Denmark late May 2005; photoes, www.netfugl.dk).

296. **Rock Bunting** *Emberiza cia* **Klippeværling**
2005: 14.5 10 Kalki Dag.
2006: 16.5 1 Cimbar Bogazi, Demirkazik – 16.5 3 males Demirkazik - 17.5 1 singing Karhan (between Kizilham Gecedi and Erzinzan) – 18.5 4 Gelinkaya – 20.5 1 Hopa – 20.5 3 Artvin.
2007: 15.5 3 Pinarbasi – 17.5 3 Karhan - 19.5 1 Artvin-Savsat – 19.5 6 Savsat – 20.5 1 Ardahan-Kars.
Found in dry rocky hillsides, slopes and ravines with sparse vegetation (Byers et al. 1995). The song at distance is somewhat confusing, bearing reminiscence of dunnocks and – to a lesser degree- Green Warbler.
The birds from the NE might belong to ssp. *prageri*, which is larger than *cia* (Europe, W Turkey) with paler, finer streaked mantle, buffer wing-bars and paler, more uniform underparts (Byers et al. 1995).

297. **Black-headed Bunting** *Emberiza melanocephala* **Hætteværling**
Common in Anatolian steppes and in south, where among the most numereous passerines in lowlands (between sea-level and 1200 m), especially in flat arable landscape, plantations and growths, orchards and macchia. Abundant in the SE, but much scarcer in the east and northeast.
2005: Most 13.5 6 Silifte cemetary (the only time we came over a group; probably migrants); but scarce in Central Anatolia and Pontic Mountains (most 3 16.5 at Gelinkaya), and does not occur in montane region. Scarce in the far East, where lacking in many areas; again widespread west of Lake Van with most 22.5 10 Isikli - 22.5 20 Durnalik - 23.5 6 Demirzili.
2006: Common in hot areas in lower and middle altitude. Most 14.5 5 Adana-Silifke - 15.5 8 Demircili – 17.5 30 Kayseri-Sarkisla – 17.5 10 Kayseri-Sivas – 22.5 17 Bendimahi Marshes-Van – 23.5 8 Van-Tatvan – 23.5 40 Diyarbakir-Siverek – 24.5 20 Nemrut Dagi – 24.5 7 Atatürk Barasi-Sanli Urfa.
2007: Common, locally abundant in the southeast. Most 14.5 15 Mezbahane – 15.5 25 Imamli – 16.5 10 Sultan Sazligi – 20.5 5 Halikisla – 20.5 6 Cilli Gecedi – 21.5 10 Patnos-Bulanik – 21.5 70 Bulanik – 22.5 26 Tatvan-Baykan – 22.5 41 Baykan-Batman – 22.5 6 Midyat – 22.5 25 Midyat-Oyali – 22.5 35 Oyali – 22.5 25 Idil-Mardin – 23.5 6 Marsin-Diyarbakir – 23.5 10 Buzak – 23.5 10 Karadut – 23.5 35 Nemrut Dagi – 24.5 10 Hotel Euphrates, Karadut -24.5 20 Karadut – 24.5 30 Nemrut Dagi – 24.5 30 Nemrut Dagi-Kahta – 24.5 5 Birezik.
Turkish breeding population is between 1 and 10 million pairs (Tucker & Heath 1995)

298. **Corn Bunting** *Miliaria calandra buturlini* **Bomlærke**
Common throughout in open landscape, especially in flat arable land. The densiest populations found in the flat arable land and grasslands of Central Anatolia and the far east; not in high mountains.
2005: Most seen around Erzek Gölu, but no large number.

2006: Most 21.5 20 Ardahan-Kars – 22.5 10 Bendimahi Marshes-Van – 23.5 30 Silvan-Diyarbakir. 2007: Most 16.5 15 Elmali-Kavdarli – 17.5 50 Tuzla Gölü – 17.5 15 Sarkisla-Sivas – 20.5 15 Ardahan-Kars – 20.5 60 Kars-Halikisla – 20.5 15 Cilli Gecedi – 21.5 20 Dogubayazit-Tendürek Gecedi – 21.5 120 Bulanik.

The ssp. *buturlini* is said to be sligtly paler, greyer and less streaked than *calanda*. These differences were at most very subtile (as also indicated by Byers et al. 1995), which notes "The species is often regarded as monotypic which seems to be a sensible position", but also notes that birds assigned to a certain race are found within the area of another. To be honest; in studied photoes and in birds in the field we could not seen any differences from breeders in Denmark (in which we are familiar), with certain birds appearing even more heavily streaked in upper- and underparts than an average Danish bird. However, we do not doubt the slight differences warranting a division into several subspecies in Byers et al. (1995), but note, that also in Cramp & Perrins there are interesting notes, e-g- than "birds from Denmark and Iran are inseparable". It will take long series of specimens and photoes definying something as subtle as this!

Additional species, including some thoughts of potential goodies to look for in the future.

Yelkouan Shearwater *Puffinus yelkouan* **Ægæerskråpe**
Frequently observed from the coastline, but irregular in the treated area. More regular from the traditional holiday villages of Alanya and Antalya).

Crested Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus* **Tophvepsevåge**
First recorded in WP by Lasse Laine near Hoba, the species is probably a rare migrant in the late part of the Honey Buzzard migration, to be looked for mid to late May along the NE Black Sea migration route. Now regular observed during Honey Buzzard migration in Israel. Not difficult to identify - look for a large, broad-winged and short-tailed, "Bonelli´s Eagle" version of Honey Buzzard! Bear in mind, that birds showing intermediate characters between the two species are said to occur in the western part of the breeding range of the species (Dick Forsman pers. comm.).

Saker Falcon *Falco cherrug* **Slagfalk**
Scarce breeder in dry, open steppe and in low mountains. Recently reported e.g. from Aladag Mountains, hills north of Van Gölü (e.g. Selale Waterfalls, Bendimahi Marshes), Bulanik, and Maden Koprunasi in Pontic mountains. Several large, unidentifyed falcons at Ararat in Aug. 2005 (Lars Gundersen in e-mail) could be this species. 30-300 pairs breeds in Turkey (Gensbøl 1995).

Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus* **Lannerfalk**
A rare breeder (10-100 pairs) with a pattchy distribution including Central Anatolia and the east. Prefers rugged mountain country. Said to occur in hilly areas N of Birezik, where observed April 2007 at Anamur (Batty 2003, P. ter Heide in e-mail).

Barbary Falcon *Falco pelegrinoides* **Berberfalk**
Sometimes reported from Birezik area, although rarely nowadays, and probably only a vagrant. How many old reports refer to Peregrines?

Amur Falcon *Falco amurensis* **Amurfalk**

The first WP record is a female 5.10 1989 at Nigde, in group of Red-footed Falcons (Forsman 2006) In spring and summer has reached Sicily, Hungary and Sweden (!). To be looked for among Red-footed Falcons.

Little Bustard *Tetrax tetrax* **Dværgtrappe**
Winter visitor to Anatolian steppes, with scattered summer records at Kulu and Tuz Gölu, and at Bulanik northwest of Van Gölü.

Demoiselle Crane *Anthropoides virgo* **Jomfrutrane**
Rare, possibly irregular breeder along river Murat near Bulanik. Best tactique is scanning the river from the roads, especially where there are sandy islands, such as NE of villlage of Rustemgedik, and north of Yoncali. Present (mid) late May-August (Soner Bekir pers. comm.).
Observed in the area several times since 2000, e.g. Rustemgestik 7 km E of Bulanik along road 280, at Yoncali between the River Murat and Bulanik, 23.5 2005 2 5 km NE of Bulanik and 11 km. W of Malazgirt May 2005. Up to 1999 the area was difficult to visit as PKK activities regular (Kristensen 1999, Schwalbe 2001, Olof Jönsson per e-mail). Also pair Kulu Gölü May 2004 (Birding World June 2005).
To be looked for in valleys with traditional agriculture, especially at Argi, Kars and Dogubayazit.

Little Crake *Porzana pusilla* **Lille Rørvagtel**
Often observed along canals in Göksu Delta (especially north of Akgöl, between the lagoon and the main road); we say a short glimse of a smaller bird 14.5 2007, which could have been this species. However, earlier in spring and in autumn, offers better opprtunities for this species (as well as Baillion´s Crake).
Slightly outside the treated area, regular observations have been made at Sedre swamp, with up to 10 present April-early May. This site is rather close to Alanya. *Directions*: east of Alanya, along coastal road. 20 km E of Alanya a big, lone hotel is seen. 5.1 km. E of the hotel –immediately W of River Sedre – a small paved road leads northwards. After 3-400 m (at a white house) a dirt road leads into the swampy area. Park here and walk into the marsh. This area is very good for waterbirds, and offers fine photo opportunities (Jan Kiel in e-mail).

Cream-coloured Courser *Cursorius cursor* **Ørkenløber**
Irregular north of Birezik. Near Halfeti, the species has again been present in several years after 2000, near a village (see directions in Gosney 1991). In 2005, the staff at the "owl café" offered guiding to the site - a local village – for at least 30 Lira. The site is reached by taking the road Birezik-Halfeti. At a sign “Sanliurfa” drive east for 20-25 km. onto “third village”, and look here.
Breeding status in Turkey uncertain; maybe tens of pairs, but probably irregular, population restricted to the southernmost areas between Euphrates and Tigris and in the extreme south near Iskenderun. Vagrants have reached the Tarsus Delta.

Oriental Pratincole *Glareola mailivarum* **Asiatisk Braksvale**
Observed 17.5 2004 in Göksu Delta in group of 20 Red-winged Pratincoles (Clarke 2004).

Other shorebirds. Shorebird migration is large, but unpredictable. Of the scarcer species, there are several records of **Terek Sandpiper** *Xenus cinereus* (Terekklire) from Van region, including Erzek Gölü, and of Great Snipe *Gallinago media* (Tredækker), the latter especially early May. Even rarer shorebirds may occur:

Caspian Plover *Charadrius caspius* (Kaspisk Præstekrave) is known to pass through East Turkey en route between East Africa and Central Asia; there are reports of up to 14 at Lake Van in August as well as recent spring observations from Tarsus Delta (Cramp & Simmons 1983; Kristensen 1999).

Sociable Plover *Vanellus gregarius* (Steppevibe) is known to migrate through eastern Turkey in spring (late March-May) and autumn. To be looked for in the Far East. In Feb.2007, about 1250 were discovered at a site in eastern Syria E of River Euphrates (www.netfugl.dk –nyheder), and was followed by similar numbers in Turkey close to the Syrian site in spring.

White-tailed Plover *Vanellus leucurus* **(**Sumpvibe**)** probably nested Göksü Delta in 1971 and Sultan Sazligi in 1996. Regarding the recent spread of the species it is a potential future breeder and more regular visitor, preferring similar habitats as Spur-winged Plover. Has been noted displaying at Birezik (Magnin & Yarar 1997).

Slander-billed Curlew *Numemenius tenuirostris (*Tyndnæbbet Spove)**.** On the range of extension, this species formerly was observed in Turkey; Tucker & Heath (1994) refers to 29 records 1900-1993. With so many scarcely visited wetland areas, especially in the East, migration observations at e.g. the extensive wetlands around Ardahan and west of Mount Ararat (with habitat similar to the parts of Merja Zerga, Morocco preferred by the last regularly observed Slender-billed Curlews) - would not come as a total surprise.

The breeding area is extensive quaking peat bog with sedge and horsetail *Equisetum* and small scattered *Salix* willows and birches *Betula*.

Pallas´s Gull *Larus ichtyatus* **Stor Sorthovedet Måge**

Mainly a winter visitor, but sometimes observed onto May (e.g. at Van, May 2004, Göksu early May 2007 (Ortvad et al. 2004, Blomdahl 2007). Up to over 100 have been seen in winter along the south Mediterranean coastline.

Pin-tailed Sandgrouse *Pterocles alchata* **Spidshalet Sandhøne**

Formerly regular at Birezik in late mornings between 8 and 9, coming to drinking places 2-4 km to the north of the town, but habitat destruction caused no recent reports. Have gradually decreased in recent decades at Birezik; formerly >500 Black-bellied and 1000 Pin-tailed Sandgrouses have been observed, now just random observations of small groups (Martins 1989, Green & Moorhouse 1995, O´Reilly 2006).

There have been an eastwards range extension of Pin-tailed populations in Turkey since mid 1990, with flock over 1000 noted eastwards to Lake Van; probably a response to changes in water levels after large dam constructions in Syria (Kirwan 2000). Western shoreline of Erzek Gölü has produced flocks in recent years (Schwalbe 2001). Formerly restricted to areas close to the Syrian border (Green & Moorhouse 1994), especially at Ceylanpinar.

Spotted Sandgrouse *Pterocles senegallus* **Plettet Sandhøne**

Observed a few times at Birezik, mainly 1988-2000, accompanying the two commoner species (Speiermann & Sander 1989, Kirwan 2000).

Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis* **Namaquadue**

The first Turkish record was from Birezik 23-24 May 2005 (Birding World June 2005).

Eagle Owl *Bubo bubo* **Stor Hornugle**

Formerly bred at Birezik (Harrop 1994)) and Van Hills, but no reports in recent years. To be looked for - and listen after - in deep gorges in undisturbed areas. Note, that parts of the population

breeding in the south may be of the small and pale desert form *aesculapus*, known as Pharaoh Eagle Owl.

Brown Fish Owl *Ketuba zeylonensis* **Brun Fiskeugle**
A record from late April 1990 near Adana indicates, that the species still may occur in Turkey. The site was along a river (altitude 170 m.) with several small streams in steep escarpment and pine forest. This area is very little visited by birdwatchers (Magnin 1991, Ebels 2002). To be looked for along rivers in well wooden area; further to the East (India, Sri Lanka) also along well-vegetated streams, rivers and lakes, somtimes in plantations bordering wetlands.
Formerly breeding bird in S Turkey. In 19th century three birds collected near Mersin and one near Aydin (Cramp 1985). The 1990 bird was caught by a fisherman, and eventually released. The fisherman claimed to have shot a similar bird 20 years before. There are earlier unconfirmed observations of large owls in the same area (Ebels 2002). In 2005 discovered Antakya region in Southern Turkey.

Tengmalm´s Owl *Aegolius funereus* **Perleugle**
Apparently very scarce breeder in Pontic mountains.

White-backed Woodpecker *Dendrocopus leucotus lilfordi* **Hvidrygget Spætte**
Local breeder, most often observed at Akseki to the west of the treated area. Getting to the site means driving on about 1000 km to and from Adana. Most observers gets the species by "taping" - a tactic we dislike. Other Akseki specialities are rather easy near Adana.
To be looked for in fur and mixed forests of the Pontic mountains, especially between Artvin and Arhavi (Green & Moorhouse 1995).

Grey-headed Woodpecker *Picus canus* **Gråspætte**
A small population is found in the Pontic Mountains, mainly in larger altitudes than Green Woodpecker.

Desert Lark *Ammomanes deserti* **Ørkenlærke**
Rare breeder in border areas to Syria. Sometimes observed in the "Ibis Wadi" at Birezik, drinking at the small ponds in the bottom of the wadi, and at Nusaybin.

Bar-tailed Desert Lark *Ammomanes cincturus* **Lille Ørkenlærke**
Vagrant to Turkey.The 3rd record was at Göksu Delta, 21.5 2005; the two previous records are from this area (Birding World 2005:June). Easily overlooked, and could be regular in sandy and stony desert witn low bushes in border areas to Syria.

Dunn´s Lark *Eremalauda dunni* **Dunns Lærke**
This enigmatic species breeds in flat stony semi-desert with low grasses, sometimes near scrub. Porter et al. 1996 mentions possible old records from Turkey of this nomadic species, which otherwise do not reach Turkey closer than Jordan. In March 2007 they were records from near Eilat in Israel and in April 2007 from Cyprus (the sole European report ever!).

Temminck´s Horned Lark *Eremophila bilopha* **Temmincks Bjerglærke**
Breeds in E Syria not very far from the Turkey; regarding the somewhat nomadic appearance in the Middle East, it might uccur irregularly in the southernmost, most arid parts. To be looked for in arid, stony desert with very sparse grassy vegetation and large bare patches of sand.

Pied Whearear *Oenanthe pleschanka* **Nonnestenpikker**
Status in Turkey uncertain; has bred twice in the 1960ies (Cramp et al. 1988), and observed a few times in the eastern part of the country during breeding season, so probably a small population here. Especially to be looked for in the Far East in areas bordering Georgia, Armenia and Iran. Occurs at rocky slopes with sparse vegetation and scattered bushes - a habitat also favoured by Black-eared Wheatear.

Cyprus Wheatear *Oenanthe cypriaca* **Cypernstenpikker**
Breeds in Cyprus only, and winters NE Africa. Over-shooters are probably regular along the SE Mediterranean Coast, especially late March-April (Harry J. Letho, photoes).

Mourning Wheatear *Oenanthe lugens* **Klippestenpikker**
Breeds at closest in N Iraq. Vagrant to Turkey, but could well prove to breed in the extreme SE - areas mostly ignored by visiting birders according to the political situation there. Breeds in barren, rocky country with gorges and wadis, lava plains and in semi-desert.
I have found this species in such habitat in Israel between Eilat and Negev, where local dense populations (somewhat recalling the situation of Finch´s Wheatear in E Turkey). To be looked for in the least vegetated "moon-scapes" aviable! ID coverts well in the "standard litterature", a more detailed treatment of ssp. including a large photo series (Boon 2004) is further recommanded reading.

Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti* **Ørkenstenpikker**
Irregular, and probably random breeder in desert near Birezik, where breeding 1985 (Kirwan 2000)

Cyprus Warbler *Sylvia melanothorax* **Cypernsanger**
Very rare visitor in spring; overshooters from the Cyprus population of this Cyprus endemic.

Plain Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus neglectus* **Dværgsanger**
Recently discovered in the extreme southeast. First record was 2-3 singing 1 km. South of the junction of the Catak and the Bahcesaray road (app. 1 hour drive SW of Lake Van) and 2 singing in 2005 16.5 km. north of Catak (Dutch Birding 27:281). To to be looked for in low mountain scrub with scattered trees (especially acacias), especially between 2000 and 3000 meters near the borders to Iran and Iraq. No observed at the sites 2006-2007.
The species is only goldcrest-sized, but clearly a *Phylloscopus*, looking similar to a miniature Chiffchaff with plumage and bare parts colouration similar to taxon *tristis,* appearing rather greyish upperparts (with slightly browinsih tinge to hindback and wings) and pale greyish underparts. The tail is darker and the white supercilium most distinctive in front of the eye, often meeting over base of bill; the supercilium is sometimes conspicious even behind the eyes. In such cases, gives an impression of Hume´s Warbler lacking wing-bars (own obs., UAE). Shares the nervous tail-and wing movements with Chiffchaff. Song a short, very characteristic, high-pitched serie: "zitt-zytt, zittelitt-zilitt", quite unlike other *Phylloscopus* warblers, but more like an exited Goldcrest, and has a touch of the rhythm of Short-toed Treecreeper. Call is frequently heard, and may prove the way of tracking the species: a short, ofte double "tjep-tjep", slighly recalling House Sparrow or Raddes´Warbler (information based on Svensson 2001, own obs. UAE Nov. 2002).

Trumpeter Finch *Bucanetes githagenus* **Ørkendompap**

Very scarce breeder, probably irregular (<50 pairs) and confined to dry, desert-like areas with cliffs and wadies near Birezik. Breeding confirmed 1977 (Cramps & Perrins 1994), but very irregularly observed in recent years.

Great Rosefinch *Carpodacus rubicilla* **Stor Karmindompap**

Not recorded in Turkey, but to be looked for in the highest mountains bordering Caucasus, e.g. along the borders to Georgia and Armenia. Breeds >2500 m. (normally > 3000 m), but make seasonal altitude movements to lower altitudes, with e.g. 200 Kazbeki, Georgia following snowfall early May (C. Leth in litt.). Found on sunny, rocky alpine meadows above the *Rhododendron*-zone with patchers of dwarf birches.

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